



# Westnell

## Nursery News

June 2006

Issue 86

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➤ ..become part of the Westnell team!

### Your UK Organisation : -

Chairman - David Sprent

Secretary – Debra Westlake

Treasurer – Ede Fehrenbach

**Note!!**

**David & Debra  
have moved to  
sunny Devon!**

### Westnell Nursery Society

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.westnell.org.uk](http://www.westnell.org.uk)

## TWENTY YEARS OF WESTNELL – 1986 - 2006

### Then .....

Does it seem possible that it is 20 years since Sally Pinnell, Margarita Cautin and Debra Westlake started a nursery class for a small group of children by renting a room in a mission church in Doscientas Millas shanty town? We began with a morning class run by Margarita and her assistant, 18 year old Doris Rodriguez. Sally Pinnell was still in Peru working alongside Margarita when we wrote our first newsletter to supporters in the UK in July 1986. The news from Peru was : *'We now have 28 children of whom 22 attend regularly. We no longer have to go and seek them out as they have learnt to be more punctual. All seem very happy except that the weather has become very cold and our children are often ill.... Sally has bought a kerosene stove for heat and to prepare hot chocolate and nourishing porridge for their breakfast'*.

In the same year we formed a small committee of friends in the UK, wrote a constitution and in October 1986 we became registered as a UK charity called the *Westnell Nursery Society*, with the modest intention of raising £150 per month to cover the costs of 2 salaries, milk and materials for the class. The first fund raising event reported in the newsletter was a sponsored bike ride in Dorset by Diana Gower we had raised what was quoted in the newsletter as a 'staggering' total of £3459 and counted on monthly standing orders totalling £210. In 1988 an afternoon session was added to the nursery day, and we bought a building for the first nursery in Doscientas Millas. Our staff group also grew and the concept of the 'Westnell Family' (*la familia Westnell*) was born. In 1998 a new site was opened in Bocanegra shanty town.

### Now .....

During 2005 we raised a fantastic total of £37,500. Regular donations were counted at around £1,500 per month. We added to this another £4,500 per annum in tax reclaimed via Gift Aid. Westnell now provides education to 300 children across the 2 shanty towns and has some 20 members of staff. Over the 20 years we have raised £450,000!

Children and families no longer have to be persuaded to come along – this year families slept outside the nursery for 4 nights to secure a place for their child at a Westnell nursery for 2006. Margarita writes: *'I am sharing this information with you because we were so sad for the parents who had made such a sacrifice for their children. This shows that the work the committee and members in the UK are doing is not in vain and that there are many people who need our help..'* This poignant message demonstrates the continuing need for more nursery places. Many of our teaching staff have been with us throughout our history and weathered the ups and downs. In order to maintain 10 classes and attempt to meet the great need in the local population they are running 5 classes without teaching assistants and have accepted a drop in pay. Their dedication is admirable and demonstrates a genuine sense of partnership and solidarity with Westnell.

### CELEBRATING OUR ACHIEVEMENT

It is a tremendous tribute to our members and supporters that we have grown and developed in a way that none of us could ever have predicted. We are proud of your commitment to us and extremely grateful to you. Some members have been covenanting since we phoned you up 20 years ago twisting your arm to help us out! We would love to be able to thank you and get together as many of you as possible so we are planning some events across the country to celebrate your loyalty to Westnell during this year and 2007 (more details of this in the next newsletter). The first event is a fund raiser hosted by the Anglo Peruvian Society in London.



Yanina (left) who was one of our first students, aged 4, is now a teacher herself!



## ANGLO PERUVIAN FUND RAISER FOR WESTNELL

The Anglo Peruvian Society has been a staunch supporter of Westnell for many years. The group is planning a stylish gala event with Peruvian food and live music aboard the Hispaniola on the river Thames from 7-11.30pm on Saturday 28th September. There will be a raffle and other activities as a fund raiser for Westnell. We hope to purchase at least one Westnell table for supporters who are able to travel to London. Cost of a ticket, including 3 course meal, will be around £50. It would be wonderful to meet up with some supporters whom we may not have seen for a while and party the night away on the Thames! Put the date in your diary and let us know if you are interested so we can provide more details as soon as they are available.

### HOST A TWENTY YEARS EVENT

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to host an event of celebration in their region and may need support from us, such as a local committee member or ex committee member to attend and give a talk. It would be great if there could be 20 events across the country to mark the occasion. You could use the Happy Jar idea at home as a family way of recognising needs of children in Perú.

### Happiness in a Jar....

Terry Carruthers and Helen Atkinson have worked together in two primary schools in Cumbria - Bishop Goodwin School and Brunswick School. In 1993 they conceived the Happy Jar scheme as a means of raising funds for Westnell.



As we explained in the last newsletter, they have raised over £2000 since they started the scheme. The children bring in loose change and

put it into a jar in the classroom when they have something to give thanks for or celebrate. Terry explains how *'besides using circle time to express their feelings and share happy moments with others, the link with Peru has been used in other curriculum areas by employing Westnell materials.'*

The photo shows a year 6 class with Helen and Terry. Westnell would like to thank them for their dedication not only to Westnell, but to raising awareness among children in this country about what it is like to grow up and go to school in a very different culture. If any other schools or nurseries are interested in the Happy Jar Scheme, we have some materials that can be used and can also put you in touch with Terry.

## Jon Moore runs the marathon and prompts Westnell to go online for sponsorship and donations

Jonathan Moore from Unilever ran the London marathon and has so far raised £1,400 for Westnell. Congratulations and thanks to him on this fantastic achievement! Since it is our 20 year celebration, why not see if we can make it £2,000? Jon came up with the brilliant idea of setting up a website for giving so that he could grab sponsors from around the world. We have signed up to Bmycharity.com which handles donations for major charities like Save the Children, Oxfam, NCH - the secure giving site is on <http://www.bmycharity.com/westnell>.



If you would like to donate, use the website above and type in 'Jonathan Moore', then select 'sponsorship', then follow the instructions on the site. Henceforth if supporters organise any event they can invite Gift Aided donations from friends, who can simply make a donation online with a credit card. Any problems email us on [www.westnell.org.uk](http://www.westnell.org.uk).

### Many thanks to the following supporters....

Cotham Parish Church chose us as their charity of the month and raised £366. Thanks to Sue Hawkins who proposed Westnell and also sold cards and crafts at the church. Congratulations and thanks to Catherine Brimelow, a supporter of Westnell since its inception, who celebrated her 80th birthday and asked for donations to Westnell instead of gifts. The Thorringtons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year and friends and family donated £110 to Westnell.

### Christmas cards

The new card designs were a huge success this year and quickly sold out. Profits totalled £2,700. Inspired by these results we intend to print 4 designs this year - 2 religious and 2 non religious by the same designer - and will print the cards earlier, so buy from us first!! We still have plenty of the photo cards that are useful for any occasion, so let us know if you can sell any during the year.

### Join our committee.... become part of the Westnell team!

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Westnell committee and become more involved with our work. Ede Fehrenbach's name has become synonymous with Westnell in the last 10 years that she has been our Treasurer. She has done a fantastic job ensuring our accounting procedures and books are in great shape enabling us to support Peru in the most effective way possible. But it is now time to give her a break from some of those duties (although she will stay on as a trustee and committee member) so we are looking to recruit a volunteer to take on at least some elements of the treasurer role such as basic book keeping and/or Gift Aid and tax reclaim admin. Please let us know if you would like more information by emailing or phoning to have a chat about what is involved.