David Grimes Trust

David Grimes (1951-2011) was a great believer in equitable development and strongly supported organisations promoting this. He helped to establish and build up the link with the rural community of San Francisco Libre, Reading’s twin town in Nicaragua. In the 1990s, he edited ‘Momotombo’, the newsletter of the Reading San Francisco Libre Association that was named after the iconic volcano visible from San Francisco Libre. He helped to organise fund raising activities, including cycle rides, and he greatly enjoyed helping to publicise San Francisco Libre at WOMAD. In late October this year, he participated in a San Francisco Libre event in South Street, organised as part of the Reading International Festival. Following this, he made a presentation on San Francisco Libre to colleagues in the Meteorology Department of Reading University, and raised funds for the Reading San Francisco Libre Trust. This turned out to be one of his last presentations, and it is very fitting that charitable donations in memory of David will go to the Reading San Francisco Libre Trust. This is a registered charity, of which David was a trustee, that he helped to establish and manage in order to assist community and educational initiatives in San Francisco Libre.

Following discussions with his friends and family, it has been decided to establish a fund in his name, within the framework of the San Francisco Libre Trust (which is already registered as a charity). David had helped to set up and run the ‘Peter Oakley Trust’ in 2001. To this day, several school children a year in San Francisco Libre are being sponsored in the name of Peter Oakley, another great supporter of San Francisco Libre. The David Grimes Trust will be managed and run in the same way, and will support needy pupils and appropriate development activities in San Francisco Libre.

Already many generous donations have been made in lieu of flowers and after the funeral. However, in the days of low interest rates, it is unrealistic for a relatively small trust fund to operate by dispersing its annual interest. For the David Grimes Trust to be viable for many years, there will be need for regular income. The San Francisco Libre Trust has found the best system is for supporters to make small but regular payments by standing order. This allows the trustees and the people of San Francisco Libre to plan ahead with confidence that there are funds available for sponsoring educational and other initiatives. The amounts can be quite small individually, but together they become significant and make a difference. If David’s family and friends could donate the equivalent of a bought coffee, a couple of pints of beer or a bottle of wine a month, they are unlikely to notice the outgoing, but it will allow the David Grimes Trust to make a difference to the people of San Francisco Libre. In addition, occasional appropriate fund-raising activities could be held to boost the David Grimes Trust fund (sponsored cycle rides, plays, sports activities, recitation marathons or whatever people think would be appropriate).
With the level of support for this idea that appears to exist, we are confident that the people in San Francisco Libre can be assisted in the name of David Grimes for at least ten years to come, and hopefully much, much longer. The beneficial effects will continue for decades to come as a new generation of Nicaraguan students in San Francisco Libre will remember that their education had been made possible through the David Grimes Trust. At present, the cost of sponsoring one child in education for one year in San Francisco Libre is equivalent to about £20 a month (which might come from one person paying £20 a month, or two people paying £10 a month, or four people paying £5 a month each). Even small donations of £2-3 a month add up when joined together!

The David Grimes Trust will circulate newsletters, describing progress and keeping donors in touch with the lives of the people who are benefiting. We would therefore be grateful if some people could agree to support the David Grimes Trust with a few hours of their time each month to make this possible. It will not be arduous or difficult and it will be interesting! We suggest four people might take on the following roles:

- Liaison by email with people in San Francisco Libre and sharing news (Spanish language ability preferred but English only is possible)
- Editing the incoming news from San Francisco Libre and news of any fund-raising events into newsletters and web-content for donors and supporters
- Editing and developing the website (it is not a complicated site) with a special page relating to David Grimes and news of the work of the David Grimes Trust.
- Fund-raising for the trust and projects in San Francisco Libre, with emphasis on getting people to commit to low value but sustained standing orders but also enjoyable events in David Grimes’ name.

Existing members of the Reading San Francisco Libre Association and Trust will provide all the necessary information and support but the long-term success will depend on the commitment of the colleagues, friends and family of David to support the David Grimes Trust through regular contributions, occasional events and a few people giving a little of their time to help organise things.

Standing order forms are available, and further information about sponsorship and volunteering can be obtained from:

Website: www.sanfranciscolibre.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ReadingSFL

Dr Jon Roberts, 55 Eastern Avenue, Reading RG1 5SQ
Email: jonrr45@gmail.com. Tel: 01189 265642

Reading San Francisco Libre Association and Trust
(Attn Paul Starkey)
64 Northcourt Avenue
Reading RG2 7HQ
Tel: 0118-987 2152 (Leave a message as Paul travels abroad)
Email: reading@sanfranciscolibre.org
Donations in Memory of David Grimes
and/or support to the David Grimes Trust

For one-off donations please fill in the Gift Aid Box (if you are a UK Tax Payer) with your name and address and either attach a cheque or if you make (or have made) a donation by cash, direct deposit or electronic transfer, please indicate the amount and relevant account name and any reference you entered.

**Single donation notification**

| Donation: Cheque attached / Cash / Direct payment (please circle one) |
| Amount: £_______ Approx date:_________ (Direct payment only) |
| Account name and/or Reference ___________________________ (Direct payment only) |

**Standing order mandate**

Please pay The Co-op Bank, Reading
Sort code: 08-90-16
For the credit of Reading San Francisco Libre Trust Account No. 50415108
The sum of £…………… (Amount in Figures) ……………………………………….. (Amount in Words)
Commencing …………….. (date) and thereafter every…………… (Frequency)
Until ……………….. Or until you receive further notice from me/us in writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of account to be Debited</th>
<th>Sort Code</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Signature(s)……………………………………………………..… Date …………………………..

Please ensure signed in accordance with account mandate
Note: The Bank will not undertake to: (i) make any reference to Value Added Tax or other indeterminate element (ii) advise payer’s address to beneficiary (iii) advise beneficiary of inability to pay (iv) request beneficiary’s banker to advise beneficiary of receipt.

**Gift Aid Box**

Gift Aid can boost the value of your donations by over 20%, at no extra cost or trouble to you! To make a Gift Aid declaration, please complete this box – and we can reclaim tax on this and all future donations. To qualify you must pay income or capital gains tax at least equal to the amount to be reclaimed on your donation. RSFL Trust, Registered Charity No.1006736
Please treat all my donations as Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.

**Details of donor**

Full Name …………………………………………………………………………………..
Address……………………………………………………………………………………..
PostCode…………………………………………………….. PostCode………………….
Date……………………………………………………..

**Please return this form to:**
Reading San Francisco Libre Association and Trust (Attn Paul Starkey)
64 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HQ
Tel: 0118-987 2152 (Paul travels a lot and so please leave a message)
Email: reading@sanfranciscolibre.org

Reading San Francisco Libre Association and Trust
Registered Charity Number 1006736
Reading International Solidarity Centre, 35 London Street, Reading RG1 4PS
Website: www.sanfranciscolibre.org. Email: Reading@sanfranciscolibre.org
An introduction to the partnership with

San Francisco Libre

Reading’s Twin Town in Nicaragua, Central America

San Francisco Libre is a small rural town, surrounded by several outlying villages, with a total population of about 13,000 people. It lies next to the huge Lake Managua (Lago Xolotlán) close to the magnificent, conical Momotombo Volcano. Although the town is only 50 miles from the capital of Nicaragua, communications are poor and the road is often impassable in the rainy season. The daily bus service is more reliable in the dry season, but the dusty journey takes more than two hours. Horses and mules provide reliable transport between the villages: but even these tend to be overcrowded!

Life in the town appears fairly simple. The houses have few comforts. There are few vehicles, no busy high street shops and few telephones. Many of the agricultural and transport technologies would seem old-fashioned in a rich community like Reading, but they continue to be important in San Francisco Libre. The pace of life is certainly slower than in Reading, but to struggle with few resources is not easy. The people of San Francisco have to overcome many daily problems in relation to drinking water, firewood, food crops, employment, transport and education. Life is not actually ‘simple’. Few people in Reading would smile under such circumstances.

There are several small primary schools and the main town also has a secondary school that caters for pupils up to 15 years. After that age young people start working or have to leave the town to continue their education in Managua. The children have much potential (like children anywhere) but they have few educational resources available.

Although the tropical rains are unreliable, the economy is based on agriculture. Maize is grown to make ‘tortillas’, and beans and rice are also staple foods. There is a small fishing industry and cattle are maintained for sale, meat, milk, ploughing and transport. These activities provide people with enough to subsist when the weather is favourable, however some recent years have been disastrous.

In the drought of 1997, the maize harvest failed. Then, in 1998, Hurricane Mitch caused incredible problems, with four days of continuous rain. The rivers became torrents that swept away entire houses, bridges and animals. Some people survived on their roofs for several days, surrounded by water, until they were rescued. The lake level rose by four metres, flooding the main town and destroying a large number of houses. Hundreds of people became homeless, and many lost everything they owned. The Mayor of Reading launched a special appeal. Individuals, schools, church groups and the public responded generously and funds were quickly sent. In thanking the people of Reading, the Mayor of San Francisco Libre stressed that many lives had been saved by Reading’s rapid response to the emergency.

The lake took several years to return to its pre-flood level, then in 2010 it rose once more and flooded the town again, with even greater flooding in 2011. The rise was gradual and so the community was more prepared and there was no loss of life. However, some houses remain flooded and there are plans to redevelop parts of the town, including the town hall, on higher ground. The new port, which was hoped to provide an economic boost, cannot be used at the present water levels.
The Mayor of Reading wrote to the Mayor of San Francisco Libre, on behalf of the people of Reading, offering solidarity and support. Repairing the damaged infrastructure, rebuilding houses and reinstating farms will stretch long into the coming years. The agriculture that is so important to the local economy has been badly affected. Fields, pastures, livestock and seeds were lost and irrigation systems have been damaged. For short-term income, people are cutting trees for firewood, but this may cause long-term environmental damage that will affect the next generation. The community is anxious to use this time of rebuilding to diversify and strengthen the local economy. Investment is urgently needed in infrastructure and jobs.

Twenty five years of links
Reading has been twinned with San Francisco Libre since 1994, although links go back to 1986. Visits of adults and children between the towns have provided greater understanding. The Reading Mayor visited San Francisco Libre in 1998 and 2003 and the Mayor of San Francisco Libre visited Reading in 1992, 2000 and 2003. Other visits have involved students, teachers, community workers and people volunteering to assist development activities in San Francisco Libre. More visits and exchanges are planned.

In addition to emergency aid and reconstruction following Hurricane Mitch, the people of Reading have provided a range of development support, mainly funded through people’s personal standing orders to the Reading San Francisco Libre Trust. There has been a long-term commitment to educational support for poor families, funded by standing orders and the associated Peter Oakley Trust. Reading has provided funds to assist students from outlying villages purchase bicycles. Reading has also raised funds for a community centre and has provided computers for the secondary school. Computers have also been provided for public access in the library and various books have also been sent from UK (in English) or purchased locally (in Spanish).

At the beginning of 2012, the David Grimes Trust was established in memory of David Grimes who was a Trustee of the Reading San Francisco Libre Trust. David Grimes was an active supporter of the Reading San Francisco Libre Association, the people of Nicaragua and educational and developmental initiatives in San Francisco Libre.

The Reading San Francisco Libre Association welcomes new interest and support from local organisations and individuals. Funds, technical assistance and continued friendship from adults and children will all be important. There is also scope for developing information resources for Reading schools, project development, event organisation and promoting volunteer and exchange visits. The Reading San Francisco Libre Association and Trust remain committed to assisting our twin town in the coming years, and we look forward to the active support from people in and around Reading.

Website: www.sanfranciscolibre.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ReadingSFL

Contacts
Dr Jon Roberts, 55 Eastern Avenue, Reading RG1 5SQ
Email: jonrr45@gmail.com. Tel: 01189 265642

Paul Starkey, Chair, Reading San Francisco Libre Association
Oxgate, 64 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HQ
E-mail: reading@sanfranciscolibre.org
Tel: (0118) 987 2152 (Leave a message as Paul is often away)