

# San Francisco Libre News



Reading's Twin Town in Nicaragua



Volume No. 6

February 2004

## Reading Half Marathon

In 2001, Mark Lawrie of Reading ran the London Marathon for San Francisco Libre. Sponsorship money he raised allowed Milton, a PE teacher from SFL, to visit Reading in 2002. Milton completed the Reading Half Marathon with Association member Toni Pujol.

Now, in 2004, at least eight members of the Association, and friends, will be taking to the streets on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March to run for San Francisco Libre. The RSFLA runners include:

Pilar Monfort 0118 954 7379  
[pilar.monfort@gmk.cwplc.com](mailto:pilar.monfort@gmk.cwplc.com)

Lorraine Barker 0118 969 1496  
[barkerloz@hotmail.com](mailto:barkerloz@hotmail.com)

Vicky Garcia 0118 958 2017  
[victoria@vgarcia.info](mailto:victoria@vgarcia.info)

Eoghan Clarkson 0118 954 0296  
[eoghan\\_clarkson@yahoo.com](mailto:eoghan_clarkson@yahoo.com)

If you can, please help support them by running with them, sponsoring them, or helping to collect donations along the route.

You can find maps, and other details of the Reading Half Marathon, by visiting the official web site at: <http://www.readinghalfmarathon.co.uk>



Milton (left) and Toni, after completing the 2002 Reading Half Marathon

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Reading's Link with San Francisco Libre

September 2004 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ceremony that cemented the twin town link between Reading and San Francisco Libre.

Over the years, the RSFLA has worked to increase understanding of life in the two communities of Reading, and SFL. With your support, the Association has helped San Francisco Libre in the aftermath of natural disasters, such as hurricane Mitch, and provided assistance with community projects in the municipality.

We are planning a series of events in September, to mark this anniversary – including exhibitions, talks, film screenings, and a half-day conference on Nicaragua.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation of a celebratory event, or have ideas for other types of event, please get in touch with a member of the RSFLA Committee.

### Upcoming Events

- 7 March Reading Half Marathon. Various members of the RSFLA will be taking part. See article for info.
- 6 June Sponsored Cycle Ride in the countryside around Reading. Contact David Ruddle 0118 956 8453
- Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration events.

We have also attached a form at the end of this newsletter to allow those who would like to send a donation, either as a one off, or as a regular contribution, to do so.

## Christmas Toys

During his visit to Reading last summer, the mayor of San Francisco Libre, José Ángel, mentioned a scheme he had previously run in conjunction with a Spanish NGO. The aim of the scheme was to ensure that every child in SFL received a present at Christmas.

Before he returned to Nicaragua, José suggested that we might like to participate - and so in our newsletter last September, we appealed for funds to support this effort. As a result, we were able to deliver \$300 and an assortment of toys to San Francisco Libre.

Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute. We hope to receive more details, and photos of the event in time for the next edition of this newsletter.

## RSFLA Website

Since launching our website last year, we have been updating, and redesigning it to make the information contained more accessible.

A new addition to the site is the 'Newsletters' section, in which you are able to view, download and/or print out current and past issues of 'San Francisco Libre News'. Some of the issues are available in two different file sizes, to accommodate those with slower internet connections.

The work on the site is very much an on-going process – if you have any comments on the site, please let us know. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.reading-sfl.org.uk>



The RSFLA home page

Contact us: <http://www.reading-sfl.org.uk> [editor@reading-sfl.org.uk](mailto:editor@reading-sfl.org.uk)

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## Jeyserd

Jeyserd's carpentry workshop in SFL is now up and running. We have received a report from him saying he has already produced two beds, and various small pieces of furniture.

He has taken on two apprentices to assist him, and the mayor is considering giving Jeyserd a contract to repair furniture belonging to the Municipality.

It is hoped that a team from Reading will visit SFL this year to work on community projects, and see what help Jeyserd requires.

## Sponsored Cycle Ride

The distances between the outlying communities in the municipality of San Francisco Libre, and the school in the town of SFL, means that many children must catch the bus into school. However, as buses in the area are infrequent, children often find themselves unable to return home after lessons, and end up staying with relatives, or other families. The mayor of San Francisco Libre thinks that a clutch of 20 or more bicycles could be an answer to this problem. The bicycles would belong to the mayor's office and could be lent out to children.

In order to raise funds to support this scheme, we are planning to hold a Sponsored Cycle Ride around Reading.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June, participants will be offered the choice of an energetic 30 mile tour of the area, or a more leisurely 15 mile summer ride through nearby scenic villages.

Further details on the routes, and how you can join in, will be available soon.

## Peter Oakley Trust

The Peter Oakley Trust helps children in San Francisco Libre to attend school by paying their mothers a monthly allowance to cover a range of things including school fees, uniforms and transport costs.

Set up two years ago to commemorate a valued member of the RSFLA, and initially helping 8 children, the Trust now assists 16 young people. The four most recent recipients of funds are:

**Diana Melisa Briceño Artola**, aged 11, from Lomas del Sol. As Diana's father suffers from diabetes and blindness, her mother must care for him, support the family by taking in washing, and send Diana and her two siblings to school.

**Ivania Isabel Gutiérrez Díaz**, aged 10, from La Trinidad has six siblings, all of school age. Ivania is reported to have received excellent marks at school. Her father, Simeón, was vice-mayor of SFL between 1997-2000.

**Jairo Ocón Torres**, aged 6, from La Trinidad has five siblings, all of school age.

**Allan Ignacio Ramírez Ordóñez**, aged 14, from Santa Rosa.

We will have more information on all the recipients of the Trust's grants in time for the next newsletter.

## Visits to SFL

Julian Stutley, a student from Reading, will be departing in February for a three-month stay in San Francisco Libre. He will help out at a school in SFL, and will lodge with a teacher.

RSFLA Chair, Paul Starkey, will also visit SFL in February.

## News from Nicaragua

**British Embassy:** Unfortunately, despite lobbying by town twinning groups across the U.K., the British Embassy in Managua will close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004.

It is planned that the Senior representative of the U.K.'s Department for International Development (DFID) in Managua will become Chargé d'Affaires with a limited brief to act in the case of emergencies involving British citizens.

At the moment, it is not clear what will happen to the small grants scheme currently administered by the Embassy. This scheme has benefited San Francisco Libre in the past, and we hope it will continue.

**San Francisco Libre, Nicaragua.** Please return to: Acting RSFLA Treasurer (Nicola Shute) 40 Morgan Road, Reading, RG1 5HG

<p><b>Reading San Francisco Libre Trust</b></p> <p><b>Gift Aid</b></p> <p>Gift Aid can boost the value of your donations by 30%, at no extra cost or trouble to you! To make a Gift Aid declaration to RSFL Trust, please complete the box below – and we can reclaim tax on 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.</p> <p>RSFL Trust, Registered Charity No.1006736</p>	<p>STANDING ORDER MANDATE</p> <p>To The Manager .....Bank/Building Society</p> <p>Address.....Postcode.....</p>
<p>Please treat all my donations as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise</p> <p><b>Details of donor</b></p> <p>Full Name.....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>..... PostCode.....</p>	<p>Please pay The Co-op Bank, Reading <span style="float:right">Sort code: 08-90-16</span></p> <p>For the credit of Reading San Francisco Libre Trust <span style="float:right">Account No. 50415108</span></p> <p>The sum of £..... (Amount in Figures) ..... (Amount in Words)</p> <p>Commencing ..... (date) and thereafter every..... (Frequency)</p> <p>Until ..... Or until you receive further notice from me/us in writing</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Name of account to be Debited <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Sort Code</span> <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Account Number</span></p> <p>Signature(s)..... Date.....</p> <p><b>Please ensure signed in accordance with account mandate</b></p> <p>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.</p>

**Reading San Francisco Libre Association - RSFL Trust, Registered Charity No.1006736**

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