



# Karen gets ready for school building blitz

**By Paul Byrne**

A WELL-KNOWN local hairdresser is set to embark on her 14th trip to South Africa as she continues to help poor children in South Africa as part of the Mellon Educate programme.

Karen McArdle, owner of Chaplin's hairdressers in the Clanbrassil Centre in Dundalk, has volunteered with Mellon Educate for the past 13 years and has signed up once again to travel to rural South Africa this coming November.

During the week of the Building Blitz, the volunteers will work extremely hard to build/renovate a school for very poor children in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Mellon Educate has built/renovated five schools since 2013 changing the educational landscape for over 5,500 children. This would not have been possible without the commitment from volunteers like Karen. Last Thursday and Friday she held a book and bake sale in the Long Walk Shopping Centre which according to Karen proved to be a huge success thanks to the generosity of the people of Dundalk.

"Once again I have to thank the people of Dundalk who have always been very generous in their support each year and I am very grateful for everybody who came into us this week.

"I also have to thank the management and staff of the Longwalk Shopping Centre for letting us set up in here for our book and bake sale.

"This will be my 14th trip to South Africa and this time we are concentrating on building

schools as part of the 'Nelson Mandela Building Blitz'. We are travelling to the Eastern Cape to Nelson Mandela's home village of Qunu where we are going to build schools and encourage young children to get an education and to make a better life for themselves", explained Karen.

"All the money raised by me goes towards ensuring that these schools are built and helps improve one of the poorest regions of South Africa", she added

For further information on Mellon Educate please visit [www.melloneducate.com](http://www.melloneducate.com) or call 01-4948200.



**Ruth Burlingham, Karen McArdle and Peter Rooney.**