



HELWEL TRUST

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Helwel Trust (Reg Charity No: 271713)

supporting Rural Development Projects in Northern KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

www.helweltrust.co.uk

'Optimism' - reporting on our 30th Year

Our Chairman writes

You will no doubt be pleased to hear that Helwel Trust Council is delighted with the steady progress of all our projects during this past year, and as you read on you will be able to appreciate that optimism. We were impressed with the reports from ACAT (Africa Co-operative Action Trust) and TREE (Training & Resources in Early Education) and decided to increase our support to each organisation. Council members Carol and Michael French visited during the year and were well able to substantiate the written reports. It was marvellous that they were also there for the happy occasion of the inauguration of the new classrooms at Mfundabasha. Our wonderful 'Hike' in the Dart Valley, blessed with amazing weather, concluded with the opportunity to receive an illustrated report from the French's as well watch a DVD from TREE.

We are very glad to tell you about the exciting new agricultural support that we are now starting to give to the Nqutu area; meanwhile we are continuing to have discussions with two other organisations that might possibly benefit from our partnership. So with projects involving child education, agriculture, and entrepreneurial development, we feel that we are achieving our main aims.

You will see from the accounts that we hold £62,681 in our "designated fund". This fund was initially begun to hold a legacy from Drs Anthony and



SEASONAL GREETINGS !

Yes, it does snow sometimes in KwaZulu Natal but not in December !

Maggie Barker but has been increased further with a bequest from Dr Mary Rose Kirkpatrick. Council are very concerned to be holding this large amount but are also mindful that it should be used appropriately to commemorate in some way the outstanding work done in KwaZulu Natal hospitals by its donors. We are constantly looking for the right use, but so far that has not been achieved.

As we go into our 31st year we are so grateful for the involvement of all our 'Friends' and ask that you continue your support for those in great need in South Africa.

Howard Mowbray



Appreciation of John Colquhoun



Our Council lost a great stalwart when John stood down after more than 30 years. He was not only a founder member of Helwel Trust in 1976, but with his legal training he established our charitable status, set up our Trust Deed and has given us valuable legal advice when needed. He was also for many years our treasurer too! We shall indeed miss his quick mind and sure guidance always tempered by his quiet humour.

John's links with Zululand go back to 1970 when he worked for Barclays Bank in South Africa. Prompted by his godfather Canon Michael Westropp he visited the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital at Nqutu and was permanently influenced by the experience. There he saw the needs of the rural situation and came under the influence of Drs Anthony and Maggie Barker (founders of Helwel Trust) who remained lifelong friends. On his return to UK he joined the Zululand Swaziland Association (ZSA) where he was also to become the Treasurer. Helwel Trust was in part an extension of the work of ZSA and so John was clearly a valuable recruit at its inception.

Mark Colquhoun, John and Sue's son, kept the family tradition alive and spent a period as a Helwel Trust volunteer, later returning with his father to Zululand on a very special holiday together.

John will of course remain a "Friend" of the Trust.

Howard Mowbray

Climate Change and Helwel Trust

There is a new buzz word in the air. One which seems to look further into the term 'climate change' that we all know so well. This term looks a little deeper into the word 'change'. Who does the change? And who will receive impact from this change? What is certain is that the First World, highly protective of its way of life, is having a huge impact on nations who do not emit such vast quantities of carbon. Third World countries are feeling the pinch. The new term relates to this and is 'climate injustice.'

At our last Council Meeting, Catherine Budgett-Meakin brought our attention to a recent Guardian article by Julian Borger (5th October 2007). The article summarised 12 of the 13 climate change related disasters to which the UN has responded in 2007 (the 13th was the Peru earthquake). Stories of serious floods, hurricanes and droughts remind us of 'climate injustice'. Our attention was particularly drawn to both Lesotho and Swaziland where extreme drought has threatened food security and caused damaging fires. As we know, these two countries are neighbours of KwaZulu Natal and there seems to be no reason why there should not be drastic changes to that area which we all hold so dear to our hearts.

We can and should continue to help the people that Helwel Trust supports: the development organisations are making small but significant changes in the lives of Zulu people. But this could all be in vain if we do not acknowledge the very real threat that climate injustice will bring about.

Whilst making small amendments in how we live our every day lives, such as changing to energy saving light bulbs and using our cars less, can have some impact, quite simply more needs to be done. We have to cut carbon emissions really radically – by 60% as soon as possible. Some community groups and church bodies are starting to take note. Making sure these voices are heard will lead to more pressure on government and industry. Politicians won't act unless they receive pressure from the public. It is, therefore, essential to make more people aware of and act on the threat of climate change.

We invite Helwel Trust supporters to bring this issue into the centre of their churches and community groups, as only by ensuring that this potentially devastating problem is kept high on the environmental agenda can we seek to minimise its impacts.

Please help us to make this more of an issue, as we know that those in KwaZulu Natal will be seriously affected.

Sally Walker (née Hanning) Helwel Trust Climate Change Committee

for more information, try <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk> or <http://www.ecocongregation.org>

ACAT Africa Co-operative Action Trust

Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP) Nklanda



ACAT continues to impress us with their honest reporting on the day to day difficulties of work in the remote rural communities of KwaZulu Natal and the detail of their accounts.

The period between January and June of this year has not been easy because Mr Ndlovu, who had been the Community Volunteer Co-ordinator (CVC) for the 55 groups of 5 people, resigned at the end of 2006, having gone for promotion elsewhere. We congratulate him on his promotion and ACAT for giving him the opportunity to develop his skills. This is the very nature of grass roots development. Initially Thembi Madondo, already an experienced CVC from Nqutu was drafted in from Nqutu to run both the programmes in Nklanda as well as Nqutu – no mean feat given the distances involved often over dirt roads.

Now Mr Bonginkosi Msomi who comes from Nkandla has been chosen to replace Mr Ndlovu as CVC. However, ACAT report that while his work on the ground visiting groups, encouraging them, creating new groups, training and organising is all excellent, he is weak academically and so still needs support from Thembi Madondo who periodically visits from Nqutu. This ensures the financial accountability that we expect.

Some of the 55 groups are strong whilst others are weak as a result of sickness, family problems or general apathy. Business is difficult in the rural areas due to the scattered nature of the population. However ACAT will loan R300 (£22) to a group to start small scale business enterprises when it is able to demonstrate its commitment to working as a group. ACAT was surprised not to receive any applications for grants during the first six months of this year. On investigation it was learnt that people were put off by the thought of going into the strange surroundings of Nklanda's bank. This point serves to illustrate how essential are the Basic Life Skills courses run by ACAT in such things as basic book keeping.



Garden protected against free range livestock by a stone wall

Gardens are seen as vital. The aim is to have a constant supply of vegetables throughout the year. The cold dry winters make this difficult particularly as animals are allowed to roam where they will and have a tendency to eat what they can find in unfenced gardens. However 20 new gardens have been created in the past 6 months making a total of 261 across the 55 groups. Fresh vegetables and eggs play an important part in maintaining the health of the increasing number of people affected by HIV and AIDS.

Helwel Trust is pleased to report that we feel confident that our annual grant of R100,000 (about £7,100) to ACAT is well spent and helps our Zulu friends to help themselves.

ACAT Sustainable Agriculture Programme – Nqutu

About a year ago Helwel Trust was approached to administer a fund for use in the Nqutu area. We felt pleased to be asked to help and, having made some enquiries, we concluded that the fund would be best channelled through ACAT. At our request ACAT submitted an application for funds to augment an existing programme for three years starting in January 2008. I am delighted to say that on 6th October the Helwel Trust Council felt able to approve this proposal which has, subsequently, been approved by the fund's holders.

continued over

ACAT operates Sustainable Agriculture Programmes (SAP) in much the same way as their EDP programmes. In an identified area with a 30 km radius, groups of five farmers are given training on how to administer their own affairs and the skills needed to address and overcome poverty. These include life skills, sustainable agriculture and HIV/AIDS related matters. People are selected to be Community Volunteers who act as role models and whose function is to assist & support existing groups and to develop new ones in the same way that Messrs Ndlovu and Msomi do at Nkandla. ACAT's aim is to empower participants to assume responsibility, within 4 years of starting a programme, for their own development and that of other members of the community, who have



Garden protected from free range livestock by old corrugated iron sheets and wattle



The beginnings of a new garden and a new gardener

hitherto not had access to active development services. After this time farmers are invited to occasional training days and workshops. All householders participating in the programme are also encouraged to develop their own gardens. A final very important aspect of the programme is to focus on the causes, symptoms, transmission, avoidance, stigma and management of the HIV and AIDS pandemic and the provision of community based support and care.

There are currently ten farmer groups in the eight areas that comprise the Nqutu district. It is hoped that by the end of three years there will be 240 new groups of five farmers with 1200 food security gardens. We will let you know over the coming years how these wonderful aims turn into reality.

Liz Sharp

HELWEL HIKE JULY 14 2007

This year's forty Hikers, including many new participants as well as the stalwarts, gathered by the riverside in Totnes, South Devon. The location for the hike had been chosen not just for the beauty of the surrounding countryside but also because of the excellent railway communications to the rest of the country. Liz & Russ Sharp had put in a fair amount of work to research the paths and suitable hostleries.

The route followed the lower reaches of the River Dart down to the picturesque 'all things nautical' town of Dartmouth. The paths and small lanes pass through some of the finest scenery and for a 'riverside' walk it is also severely undulating in places. The weather was dry and perfect for walking; a blessing in the middle of our wet early summer.

Those who chose to walk all the way (about 10 miles) had a very strenuous day but Liz had arranged a river taxi from Dittisham and a rescue vehicle, driven by our neighbour Kim, to patrol the lanes and ensure those with less stamina could make the rendezvous in the centre of Dartmouth by the time the riverboat left to take all back to the start point in Totnes.

The day was still far from over – those who could spare the time travelled to Liz & Russ' home, on the edge of Dartmoor near Ashburton, for an evening barbecue. More local people joined in, to listen to a talk from Mike French about his & Carol's recent trip to South Africa when they were able to visit the projects Helwel Trust supports and also to watch a DVD presentation from TREE.

An excellent way for Friends of Helwel Trust to celebrate thirty years of helping the rural poor in KwaZulu Natal to improve their lives. (see back page for pictures)

Russ Sharp



Training & Resources in Early Education

Helwel Trust is very grateful for the regular reports received from TREE – they arrive in good time before our Council Meetings. They are interesting and do not seem to shy away from reporting some of the problems encountered. The following is taken from a fuller report dated September 2007.

“It is now the third year in which Helwel Trust has provided support to TREE. Helwel Trust is now supporting 15 practitioners, who are all at the same stage of training, in the Melmoth area. In their schools there are over 500 children who are, as a result, receiving a better education. The first two years of funding supported practitioners to attain a basic Early Childhood Development (ECD) qualification and at the end of the next three year period the 15 practitioners will be fully certified pre-school teachers.

Since completing Level 1 their knowledge of ECD is greatly increased as is their general interest and understanding of the subject. During the first two modules all practitioners reacted well to the training; displaying both enthusiasm and a thirst to learn new skills. There was a 100% attendance rate. For many of them this is their first job and first opportunity to learn any kind of skill outside of school. It is also likely to be their first opportunity to earn an income and reach some level of financial independence.

Follow-up: There are site visits by TREE to the schools where they are operating to check that the training received is being properly implemented. At twelve of the fifteen sites there was good progress. At two, lack of space is hampering the work so more open air work is being done until applications to the local municipality for more classroom space bear fruit. (This is unfortunate but at least the first steps have been taken.) At one site the practitioner was confused as to how to use the equipment and how to set out the classroom correctly. The trainer was able to advise on this and we are pleased to report that the classroom is now set out correctly.

Toy Making: It is reported that all the practitioners have been actively making improvised toys from waste material and thus adding to the toys already in their toy kits. At Sabiza Crèche, Zanele Sibiyi first joined the training two years ago when her site had nothing – no toys and no resources. It now has a flourishing garden, it is registered with the Dept of Social Development and Zanele has done an outstanding job making her own toys for the site. This is having a huge impact upon the children at the site as both learning and nutrition are now improved. Zanele is upheld as a role model to other practitioners on the course.

Networking and Partnerships: The Melmoth area is particularly fortunate as the Department of Social Development (DoSD) is extremely active in the area and representatives meet monthly with the local ECD forum. The benefit of this is that ECD sites have easy access to the DoSD representative and one of their social workers has been appointed to focus on ECD and to work with sites addressing some of the problems they are facing. As a result, issues such as identifying orphans and submitting their names to the Department so that they and their siblings can receive assistance in the form of food parcels, has been addressed. It was reported that initially the Social Worker was not clear how to assist the ECD sites register with the DoSD, but thanks to assistance from TREE they are now clear and able to assist other sites in the area.”



Children at Thubalethu Crèche

Eshowe Community Action Group (ECAG)

ECAG opened their final report to Helwel Trust on the completion of a new classroom at Mfundabasha with these words: “Children are born curious, ready to grow, ready to learn, but for some there has never been the chance to learn and express feelings. They are born hungry not only for food but also for interaction and to be educated. It is through interactions with others and with the environment that children learn the language, habits and expectations of those around them.

Unfortunately, not all children have equal opportunities to be born healthy, to explore what is around them and to express themselves. For these young rural Zulu children education is so important, but without classrooms none of the above is possible.”

In the report they go on to say that “Each child should be entitled to equal access to the curriculum in order to learn, feel secure, be successful and happy and that the school community should provide a risk free environment that builds self-esteem, responsibility, respect and wellness in all learners.

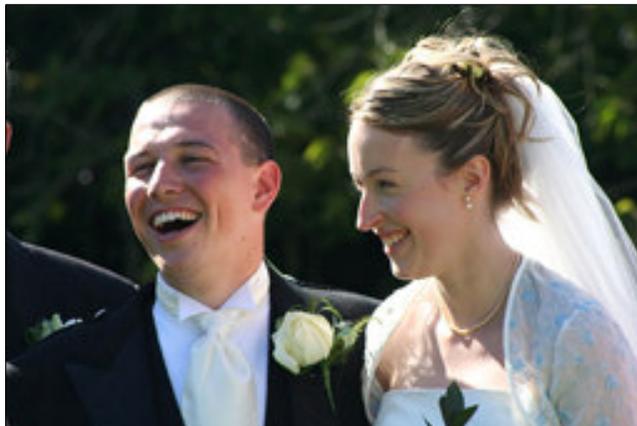
Mfundabasha Primary School is situated close to the Hhluhuwe Game Reserve; about 2½ hours drive north of Eshowe. This primary school houses over 500 children, ranging in age from 5 to 15 years old. The school was established in 1990, and the Principal has been leading it since 1993. His team is dedicated, only wanting the best for these young children.

The school had 7 existing classrooms, one of which was being used as a library/storeroom, and on rainy days children were crowded into this facility too. A few of their previous ‘classrooms’ were unfit for children to be taught in. Fortunately for these young children, they now have 5 new classrooms, as further donors were found to build 4 additional classrooms.

The community surrounding the school is very poor. The grandparents bring up the majority of the children, as the parents have died or moved away to find employment.

Local builders were employed to build the classrooms, and they in turn employed skilled and semi-skilled employees from the surrounding area, which has a large number of unemployed. Local labour is engaged wherever possible so that money flows back into communities. In several instances these temporary labourers have stayed on permanently with building teams. This project we believe is sustainable through continued community efforts and this only happens because the community are involved in the project from the onset. Materials for the project were purchased from the local building suppliers in Eshowe, and the costing for the project was monitored by Mr Fred Volbrecht, the project co-ordinator, and Emmanuel Makhoba from his office.

Education expands abilities and opportunities. Education is a key plank of the strategy to provide all South Africans with the skills and training they need to compete for work and enjoy a higher standard of living than was enjoyed by their parents and grandparents. We believe this project will enable these young children to expand their educational opportunities.



CONGRATULATIONS !

Council Member and ex-Volunteer Sally Hanning
married Chris Walker on 3rd August 2007

The completion of Mfundabasha Primary School’s new classrooms means so much more than just a roofed square construction of bricks and cement. It represents the hope of an education, better learning conditions, protection from the elements and pride in a permanent classroom of their own. This project’s success is owed to the committed joint effort between the Helwel Trust, The Eshowe Community Action Group and the school itself, represented by the parents, teachers and children without whom, such projects would not be possible.”

From Helwel Trust’s perspective, it is wonderful that we have been in a position to help the people of Mfundabasha in this win win way.

HELWEL TRUST
Summary of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st March 2007

	general £	designated £	restricted £	Total 2007 £	Total 2006 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations & Covenants	22,726		2,530	25,256	21,781
Interest received	1,597	2,592		4,189	3,686
Tax recovered	2,563		423	2,986	3,438
	<u>26,886</u>	<u>2,592</u>	<u>2,953</u>	<u>32,431</u>	<u>28,905</u>
Resources expended					
<u>Direct charitable expenditure for KwaZulu Natal</u>					
from General Funds	16,824			16,824	14,526
Designated Funds		0		0	0
Restricted Funds			1,870	1,870	1,688
	<u>16,824</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,870</u>	<u>18,694</u>	<u>16,214</u>
Other expenditure					
Fund raising	333	0	0	333	
Management & administration	1,918	0	0	1,918	3,140
	<u>2,251</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,251</u>	<u>3,140</u>
	<u>19,075</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,870</u>	<u>20,945</u>	<u>19,354</u>
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources	7,811	2,592	1,083	11,486	9,551
Fund balances brought forward	29,536	60,089		89,625	80,074
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2007	<u>37,347</u>	<u>62,681</u>	<u>1,083</u>	<u>101,111</u>	<u>89,625</u>

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at 31st March 2007

	2007 £	2006 £
Current Assets		
Bank accounts	15,778	8,158
Charities Official Investment Account (COIF)	85,333	81,467
	<u>101,111</u>	<u>89,625</u>
Current Liabilities		
	0	0
Net Current Assets	<u>101,111</u>	<u>89,625</u>
financed by		
Unrestricted General Fund	37,346	29,536
Designated Funds	62,681	60,089
Restricted Funds	1,084	0
	<u>£ 101,111</u>	<u>£ 89,625</u>

WILL YOU HELP?

Over £15,000 was raised through Gift Aid donations in the last year, helping vital development work in KwaZulu Natal.

Every £1 gift aided enables Helwel Trust to reclaim an extra 28p from the taxman.

Will you make a regular donation, increase your existing bankers order or make a one-off donation? Helwel Trust urgently needs your continuing support - please help us again.

Thank you.

gift aid it

Self Assessment Repayment may be donated to Charity

The section Q19A on the Self Assessment return allows a taxpayer to donate all or part of their SA repayment to charity (Helwel Trust's code is SAH70AG). This option is only available to individual taxpayers, not partnerships, trusts or estates and is not available through the Short SA Return.

Ways of giving to Helwel Trust through CAF:

Give As You Earn: Helwel Trust's GYE number for pre-tax payroll giving is 000104834

CAF Vouchers

CAF Charity Card

CAF CASH

www.cafonline.org (for online donations)

For more information on the Gift Aid Scheme or if you need a Gift Aid Declaration Form please contact:

Carol or Mike French: phone: 0127 984 2404

e-mail: mikef@hadham99.freemove.co.uk

Donations to Helwel Trust may be sent to

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SG10 6AX



Photographs courtesy of Angela Maddison, Sally Hanning, ACAT, Lisa Sutton & Russ Sharp
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printed on environmentally friendly paper



Children at Langwe Creche



2007 Helwel Hike



If you would like more copies of this Newsletter, Gift Aid Envelopes, a leaflet on leaving a Legacy to Helwel Trust or further information about Helwel Trust –

please contact the Organizing Secretary, Liz Sharp at

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All the Trust's Officers give their services voluntarily.

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