



# HELWEL TRUST NEWSLETTER

[www.helweltrust.co.uk](http://www.helweltrust.co.uk)

supporting Rural Development Projects in  
Northern KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Winter 2016



Andrew Pemberton, Lisa Mills, Teresa Ngobese (TREE) Sally, Bronwen and Harry Williams, Pre School Teacher, Matt Williams, Keir and Paul Mills, Ros Hedley-Miller, Owen and Liz Williams, Tessa Pemberton, John, Toby and Nicky Sharp with children at Doni Creche, Nkandla

Our newsletter comes with greetings to all our Friends of Helwel Trust. I hope you will find the accounts inside of our recent group trip both interesting and vivid. Our travels in KwaZulu-Natal showed up the contrast, which seems to grow each year, between the ever busier towns, and the distant rural settlements. In and around the “places on the map” with their tarred roads, we saw more small enterprises, better pre-schools, a sense of bustling economic activity – hooray! But in remote areas, life is more basic, and the needs we have been addressing are still to be met. We were heartened by the resilience we saw to the prolonged drought. However, the attention to child safeguarding and the rise of diabetes spoke to us of new social problems.

Again I convey thanks to all of you who contribute to Helwel Trust and our South African partners who foster enterprise, livelihoods and education (ACAT, TREE, Ukhanye and now also Africa!Ignite) – we can take encouragement from their reports and the evidence of our visits. Special thanks in 2016 go to Dr Leo Aylen who organised our annual Hike, and to Revd Claude Rutter whose private published memoirs have elicited a very generous response in donations. And I hope we will be able put together some more events here and there in 2017 where our Friends can gather.

Please read on.....

*Andrew Pemberton*

**Save the date: AGM 4th November 2017 - Venue TBA**

## Visit reports from the Autumn 2016 'Family' visit to KZN

This half term an intrepid party of Helwel supporters and their families undertook a self-funded visit to our partners in Kwa Zulu Natal (alongside more typical holiday pursuits!). About half of the party had never been before, and the group included 4 children aged 5 -10 who gave us a fresh perspective on all we saw. If you are interested in joining a future trip, please contact Liz Williams on [Helwel@outlook.com](mailto:Helwel@outlook.com).

### Visit report: TREE

We visited TREE's Durban headquarters on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October, followed by visits to pre-schools in the Nkandla area the next day and in the Nqutu area on 1<sup>st</sup> November. At the HQ, we met Bertha Magoge, TREE CEO and were shown around Nkandla and Nqutu by Teresa Ngobese Programmes Manager, and Susanne Ramsunder, Fundraiser.

The visits focussed on the post training support that TREE offers to pre-school teachers, called Six Bricks or Sizanani. This helps to keep the pre-school teachers motivated after completing their training with TREE and working in very remote areas, but also gives them professional development and new ideas.



**6 bricks in action, with Harry Williams (10) joining in.**

This is going very well and we met and watched some inspiring teachers in action with their classes. It was impressive to see how such a simple resource of 6 differently coloured Duplo bricks was used to teach counting and basic maths, colours, shapes, textures, imaginative/creation play.

All the pre school teachers we met were clearly nervous at having so many visitors observing them but managed admirably. It was particularly exciting and inspiring to visit the Pre-schools with our children and see them interact with the local children.



**Keir Mills (5) and John Sharp (6) get stuck into the play ground at Qudeni Flagship crèche.**

**Team at TREE HQ**



## John Sharp, age 6

"We went to visit pre-schools and travelled by car, very quickly. We sung some songs with the older children because they had nothing to do in a little room. They had little buildings and grassy playgrounds, and inside the class it had a hard concrete floor and a blackboard instead of an interactive whiteboard. It was like a Victorian classroom"



Nothisiwe Crèche in Haladu, near Nqutu was the most inspiring we saw. 84 children in three classes demonstrated their excellent attention and concentration with the six-bricks maths exercise. When we handed over gifts of fruit and toys, the school erupted into a singing, dancing frenzy!

## TREE Toy Library Visit

Here is the TREE Toy Library, some 12 miles from Nqutu which Helwel Trust co-funded with Breadline Africa. It was situated near a clinic and primary school, and seems to be a hub for the scattered local population, which means it is well used. Sanelisiwe, the Librarian keeps records of all loans and advises teachers on how to use resources. Sometimes pre-school teachers bring their class to visit the library for an hour and to use the toys.



Liz Williams,  
Teresa  
Ngobese (TREE)  
Sanelisiwe (Toy  
Librarian) and  
Andrew  
Pemberton  
outside the  
shipping  
container toy  
library.

## Visit report: ACAT Field visit

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Rick Phipson, ACAT Programme Manager, joined us at our guest house near Dundee, and we set off early to meet Thembi Madondo, Project coordinator, just beyond the (almost dry) Buffalo River. First stop was a series of good-looking gardens in the Ncume area. One lady we visited, Mama Zulu, grows sweet potatoes, strawberries and spinach that she sells to a market trader in Nqutu for R1000 per month. Other growers sell locally.



This garden had doubled in size since our last visit. The owner had just been given a Jo-Jo tank by ACAT of which she was very proud.



We then walked through the village past a number of gardens that also included turkey and geese rearing besides chickens – quite a surprise! Several homes were also making breeze blocks.



On our walk we met a lady with a wheelbarrow full of fruit, crisps and sweets that she sells at schools. Thembi introduced this as a 'survivalist' enterprise and suggested that if she saves enough she could then develop her own 'tuck' shop.

During our walk we were accompanied by Pastor Simando Manga in his mid 20s. Besides gardening, and preaching, he rents out a marquee, sells bibles and CDs, does carpentry and has taught himself to weld! Exactly the enterprising spirit which ACAT are promoting.



## Visit report: Ukhanye Community Care Centre (UCCC)

UCCC is a volunteer run service near St Augustine's, between Dundee and Nqutu. The volunteers provide community support services to up to 100 families including a feeding scheme for orphans and vulnerable children, a pre-school, an older ladies support group to combat loneliness, home-based care to children and families suffering from HIV/AIDS and a community garden.



**Helwel Trust funded toilet block**



**Helwel Trust funded Barker Building with water tank**

We have supported them for a number of years with funds for a building, drainage, freezers and fencing and toilets, which we saw in operation. We were greeted enthusiastically by members of the committee and volunteers. It is impressive to see such vigour and motivation from volunteers who are seeking to support the neediest of their neighbours. They report that their services and number of people seeking support are growing.

A South African Lottery Grant is currently allowing them to pay the volunteers' expenses. This runs out at the end of the year and it is a concern that they will struggle if the volunteers are forced to find paid work.



### **Paul Mills, husband of Council member and ex-volunteer Lisa on his first visit to Zululand:**

“The recent trip with Helwel to South Africa made me re-evaluate how lucky I am to have been born in a country where we take running water, quality education, food and good housing for granted. I saw for myself, for the first time, that a small donation goes a very long way in Zululand. I wish everyone could see what we saw and feel what I feel after this visit.”

## Visit report: Africa!Ignite

This was our first visit to new partner Africa!Ignite. We visited their head office in Durban, the Youth Action Desk in Dundee and the WOWZulu shop at Isandlwana. Africa!Ignite aims to stimulate economic development, particularly for women and youths, whilst sharing and celebrating Zulu culture.



Andrew P. Bongiwe (Africa!Ignite Project Manager), Mcebisi (WOWZulu Outlet Assistant), Max (Africa!Ignite Project Officer) and Thembile (WOWZulu Café Proprietor and excellent muffin baker)

Later we visited the Youth Action Desk in Dundee to meet four young advisers who spoke confidently, explaining the case histories they deal with, such as assisting people to apply for birth certificates, so they can enrol in school and access child benefit. The new role seems valuable, the team were energetic, and we hope this will grow as their role becomes better known and they are able to get further into the rural areas.

The seven WOWZulu shops across KZN sell local arts and crafts. Isandlwana is the most mature, and we were impressed by the bright colourful cafe, and by the individuals managing it, Mcebisi and Thembile. We enjoyed good coffee, muffins, and hot chocolate, and treated ourselves to the crafts and jewellery on sale. They have recently received the Helwel Trust sponsored bicycles, which will take tour groups around Isandlwana, and to visit the ladies who produce the crafts in the WOWZulu shop.



Bronwen Williams tried out the new Helwel sponsored bikes to promote tourism.



Andrew meets the Youth Advisors at the Dundee Youth Action desk



### Harry (10) and Bronwen (8) Williams

"We really enjoyed travelling across Zululand which helped us to see the differences between our lives and those of South African children. We were surprised how happy the children appeared with few resources. In schools we handed out knitted dolls and the children were excited, unlike our school they just accepted the doll they were given. We had a great adventure and will remember it forever."

## Visit report: Chloe Sharp Memorial Pre-school, by Liz Williams formerly Sharp

It was great to return to 'Chloe's school' with my family, Toby, Nicky and John for the first time since Toby and I were there for its opening on St George's Day 1999. The school was built under the auspices of our former partner Zisizeni as a result of a legacy.

I never thought I'd go back but it's always been important for Toby and I to show Nicky and John a special bit of family history so we are very grateful to Cyprian and Boni that they made the visit happen. It was so good to see the school flourishing, lots of children with good playground equipment and many pictures on the walls. After our look around we went across the road where all 14 of us were entertained to lunch in true Zulu hospitality – thank you Mrs Msweli and family.



Toby Sharp, Liz Williams and Mrs Msweli



Ntambanana—Chloe Sharp Pre-school

## Helwel Hike 2016: report by Rollo Clifford and Amanda Arthurton

On September 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 the annual sponsored Helwel Hike took place near Warminster, Wiltshire, organised by supporter Leo Ayles. The hikers visited a hill fort and a white horse. Money was raised for fencing of vegetable gardens and for water storage tanks in rural KZN.



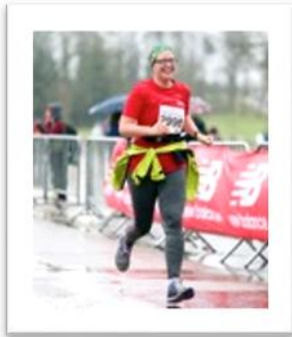
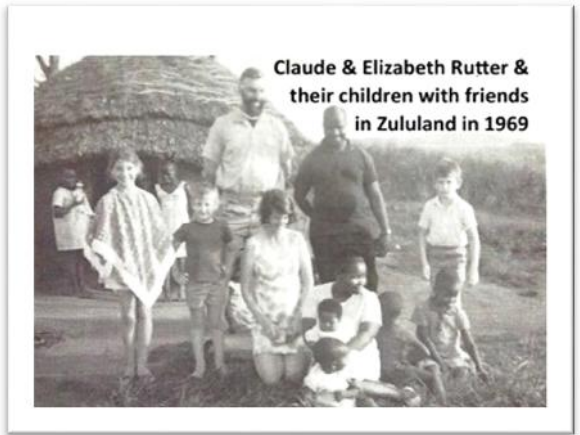
Leo Ayles, Howard Mowbray, Andrew P and Amanda Arthurton.

The walk was unfortunately curtailed to avoid our being shot (!) as a lot of the original walk was across Ministry of Defence land in active use that weekend. Leo recounted vivid tales of a huge battle in Saxon times, the largest ever on British soil, near the white horse on Westbury hill. It was a little unsettling to think of the carnage that had taken place there as we had a snack.

**Save the date: Helwel Hike 2017**  
**Saturday 2nd September (venue TBA)**

## Fundraising news

Revd Claude Rutter, Helwel Trustee invites donations in lieu of sale of his memoir 'A Proper Rural Dean'. In one of many chapters on his life, travels and ministry, Claude reflects on the adventure and challenges of taking his young family to live in apartheid South Africa in 1969, when Helwel's work was just beginning. Contact Claude directly on 01460 221368, E-mail [rutter210@btinternet.com](mailto:rutter210@btinternet.com) or write to Home Farm, Chilson, South Chard, Somerset TA20 2NX.



### There are so many ways you can help:

Send cheque donations to Helwel Trust: Carol French, Copperfield, Station Road, MUCH HADHAM, SG10 6AX. Gift Aid your donation (so the tax man pays us more!) - ask Carol how on 01279 842404.

Consider making a gift to Helwel in your Will, organise an event, donate, sponsor or fundraise online at:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/helweltrust>

Trustee and ex-Volunteer Lisa Mills is running the London Marathon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017. Please support Lisa at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/lisamillsmarathon>

Help us save money so that we can give more to our friends in South Africa by receiving this newsletter by e-mail—e-mail Lisa at [Lisa.Mills@live.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Mills@live.co.uk) However we are happy to send out as many paper copies as you'd like to share with friends, just ask!

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If you would like to see a copy of our 2015-16 accounts, please visit the Charity Commission Website [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) and look up Helwel Trust (Registered No 271713) or visit our website [www.helweltrust.co.uk](http://www.helweltrust.co.uk)

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