



August
2020

HELWEL TRUST NEWSLETTER

www.helweltrust.co.uk

supporting Rural Development Projects in

Northern KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

HELPING OUT when there's pandemic and lockdown

You may be keeping an eye out for the news of what effects the pandemic is having in South Africa, and what the South African government is doing about it. The numbers of recorded cases and deaths are higher in urban areas, and the virus seems to be progressing more slowly out into rural areas. But we can't rely on the reported statistics. As our report from ACAT shows, later in this newsletter, there is stigma attached to the infection and families are not admitting when their relatives have caught, or died from, the virus. More importantly, for our partners ACAT and TREE, training courses are not able to proceed as planned, crèches are closed, and many rural folk are short of the hoped-for income from their enterprises.

The Helwel trustees have already provided extra grants to TREE and ACAT amounting to something over £10,000 to support their responses to the pandemic. We would have made this the target of our Helwel Hike fundraising but as you see overleaf, the planned Hike event in Dorset has been postponed to another year, because of our own pandemic uncertainties.

So we ask you, our Friends, to contribute to this special cause to raise £10,000 through your own Hike, donation or other fund-raising activity. Perhaps you have been spending less money than normal during your lockdown? perhaps you could summon the energy to complete a physical challenge before the winter weather turns all to mud? See over... **Andrew Pemberton (Chairman)**

Helwel Trust—Registered Charity No. 271713 (England & Wales)

Helwel Hike 2020 - change of plan:

D-I-Y Hike for Helwel

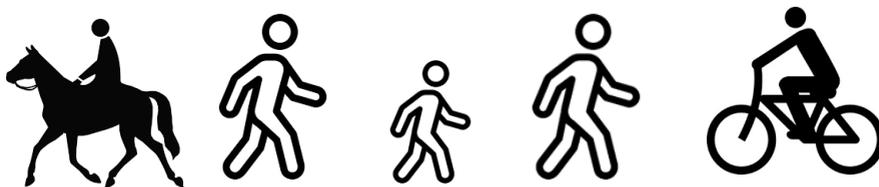
TARGET: £10,000 by end of 2020.

Please help us in a special fund-raising effort by the end of the year, for countering the effects of the pandemic and lockdown in Zululand.

The Dorset Hike planned for September 5th is postponed until next year. At our last meeting, the trustees decided that even if we were fewer than 30 people gathered to do the hike together, there would be concerns about Covid-19 infection risk, and the travelling requirements, especially for older participants. We will save the planned route up for our next opportunity to do the Hike together – we hope in 2021.

Could you do your own Hike to raise funds for Helwel Trust? With a small group of friends, maybe, following the social distancing guidance?

Or could you subject yourself to a different challenge such as a bike ride, a domestic “lockdown” challenge walking round your garden, or up and down your stairs - à la Major Tom - or something quite novel?



Do implore your friends and family for sponsorship. They can give money online through Virgin Money Giving, if you set up your own fund-raising page for your “Hike” effort for Helwel Trust. Or you can collect donations the “hands-on” way: use the back page of this newsletter as your sponsorship form and send the total of funds raised to our Donations Secretary, Amanda Arthurton (or make a direct donation – details are on page 6 below.)

ACAT (Africa Co-operative Action Trust)

ACAT have sent us the following update as at July 29th:

“With the COVID infection rate steadily increasing, our team has suspended any group and training activities. Each ACAT extension officer has been given extra [mobile phone] airtime to enable them to communicate with their Community Extension Volunteers in their area. These volunteers are able to let them know the situation on the ground within their areas, and alert them to any special needs or concerns. So far, this is working well. The ACAT centre is working within strict safety protocols, and much of the day to day work is being completed on time.

In the rural areas, there is a stigma attached to contracting Covid – and many people prefer to report that their relatives have died from natural causes, rather than admit that they succumbed to the virus. Most of our team report that people are very scared of the disease, and are taking precautions where they can. Some of our groups are sewing masks and have generated income from this. In other areas, the need for income has meant that people are taking their chances to revive their businesses, rather than go hungry.

Food security remains one of the most powerful impacts of ACAT’s work. This pandemic has highlighted the significance of empowering people to work towards and become ‘food secure’. They are able to feed their families and generate income from their produce.”



TREE (Training & Resources in Early Education)

TREE continue to experience operational and financial challenges, being prevented from running residential courses until “level 1” of South Africa’s lockdown is reached (moving from level 3 to level 2 on 17 August). ECD practitioner trainees have now lost their income as crèches have had to close in the lockdown. Here the information we received on August 8th, concerning the cohort of 15 trainees we have been funding:

“We have two drop-outs to date [for reasons given – they have been replaced by two substitute trainees who will complete their course later]. The 13 ECD practitioners have managed to progress well... In July 2020 the 13 of them received the endorsement of being competent during the interim external verification. Covid-19 has brought so many adaptations that incur costs that are not affordable.... The practitioners had a major challenge of not getting any form of income through their ECD centres as a result of the country’s lockdown rules. Many were faced with the torture of seeing their children go to bed hungry and unable to provide for them. Upon receipt of funding from Helwel Trust the practitioners went to buy groceries for their families and other essentials they needed.

We are working on facilitating training through blended learning [part online, part face-to-face]. Helwel Trust has donated tablets to assist when we embark on blended learning Further to this, [TREE] will be deploying the trainers in central venues closer to the ECD practitioners’ homes to facilitate face to face training.”



A recent Facebook post from TREE shows them working with partner RCL Foods to deliver 4.2 tons of nutritious porridge to some of their ECD centres, to alleviate the lack of meals provided in crèches.

“[The lockdown] meant that the Community Toy Library [at Mphondi near Nquthu] had to be closed too. This did not stop the organisation trying to provide a service to the children closer to the toy library. The toy librarian [whose stipend is funded by Helwel Trust] was sent activities through WhatsApp to complete with children in their families and also share the activities with the caregivers she has on her cell phone contact list so that children continue to receive stimulation from their caregivers in their own homes. This allowed the organization to follow the social distancing rules as well as ensuring that children are not stranded with no stimulation. Most of the activities were based on recycled materials so that all caregivers can easily participate.”

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

We will be holding our Helwel Trust AGM online, using Zoom, this year. All Friends of Helwel Trust are welcome to join. Apart from the formalities, there is the Chairman’s Report to receive, and there will be an opportunity for the trustees to answer and discuss any questions you may wish to notify us of, in advance.

Our AGM will take place on Friday October 23rd at 4.30pm.

Please email Liz Williams at helwel@outlook.com if you wish to attend, and Liz will send you instructions for joining the Zoom conference by computer/tablet/mobile phone (video) or telephone (audio only).

Make a donation to HELWEL TRUST

Online: To donate securely online, either for one-off gifts, or for fundraising events, or to set up a regular payment, please visit:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/make-a-donation/>
and enter **Helwel Trust** in the “search box”

(Virgin Money takes a small fee but handles Gift aid for us).

You can also donate via internet banking directly from your bank account to our account, the details of which are as follows:

Sort Code: 20-33-83 (Barclays)
Account Name: Helwel Trust
Account Number: 90330264

Please put your surname (and “Hike” if relevant) in the Reference.

When you use internet banking please let Amanda Arthurton, our donations secretary, know if you can “Gift Aid” your donation (and have not already signed up for Gift Aid with us). Her contact details are given below.

During the lockdown period we would prefer online donations rather than physical cheques if possible. However, you can still post cheque donations to Amanda Arthurton, to her address at 18 Bellamy Street, London SW12 8BU. Again, please “Gift Aid” your donation if you can.

If you have questions, please write to Amanda, email her at amanda.arthurton@btinternet.com or call her on her mobile 07586 293 699.

Legacies: Please consider making a gift to Helwel in your Will. Please ask Amanda for more information if you need it.

Reminder: Shopping online for Helwel Trust

- Generating funds for Helwel Trust won't cost you a penny when you shop using the website www.thegivingmachine.co.uk. Online retailers, such as John Lewis, M&S and Amazon will make a donation to Helwel Trust every time you shop with them by this route.
- At www.justcardsdirect.com you will find a range of products, including cards for sale. 20+ charities, including Helwel Trust, benefit from the sales.
- Helwel Trust cards and envelope re-use labels are available to buy from Liz Williams: see our website for details : www.helweltrust.co.uk

Please help us save on postage by receiving our newsletters by e-mail— send an e-mail to andrew.pemberton@btinternet.com, to request.

If you have received this newsletter by post or email and if you no longer wish to receive our Newsletters or Updates in future, please let us know by email (as above) or by post to Andrew Pemberton at The Grange, Selsley Road, N. Woodchester, Stroud GL5 5PJ Tel 01453 872813

For any information about **Helwel Trust**, please contact our Organising Secretary, Liz Williams at Swallow Barn, Common Road, Mitchel Troy, Monmouth NP25 4HZ Tel: 01600 711518 e-mail: helwel@outlook.com

If you would like to see a copy of our most recent submitted accounts, please visit the Charity Commission Website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk and look up Helwel Trust (Registered No 271713).

KZN Photographs taken by trustees and partners, thank you.

Edited by Andrew Pemberton.

