



HELWEL TRUST NEWS UPDATE

Issue No: 7

April 2008

Helwel Trust (Reg Charity No: 271713) supports Rural Development in Northern KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

LOOKING TO EXPAND OPERATIONS

Helwel Trust Council received a most encouraging report on the operations of our present funding partners in KwaZulu Natal from Drs Howard & Carolyn Mowbray, our Chairman and his wife & fellow Council member; along with encouraging news about a possible new partner that is engaged in home based care for HIV/AIDS sufferers and orphans in a remote area near Nqutu. The Drs Mowbray worked in KZN for several years in the 1960s and 70s and, through Helwel Trust business, have never lost touch with the Zulu people and their needs. In the course of a very busy week they were able to meet with the organisers and the leaders at the grass roots and to visit a number of communities where the projects are happening. They also met with Bishop Dino and the Revd Ignatius Zwane, Diocesan Social Development Officer, accompanied them on some project visits. The reports in this Update are based on what they learnt.

As a result of their report Council has agreed that the time has come to increase regular funding and hopefully to take on more capital projects.



On Monday 4th February, H & C met with **TREE** Director, Pam Picken, her new deputy, Carol, and Nirupa, the chief fund raiser. Carol has previously run a hospice and before that was in Education. A tour of the

headquarters in Briardene, near Durban, included a visit to the resource centre, where training materials, toys and APT (appropriate paper technology) products are produced and sold making a profit and has a turnover of about £65k.

Some of **TREE's** work is frustrated by promised funds not materialising. The SA government have asked them to train 1000 pre-school teachers but have only provided funding for 300. However they continue to expand and innovate – 'Siyafundisana' is guided play for caring adult and child combined with a 'parenting' programme and the provision of play-kits for the pre-schools, which can be rotated between them for variety. So far this is not happening in the Melmoth area.

Helwel Trust is funding the training of 15 pre-school teachers at present but, in March, Council expressed a wish to increase support for an expansion of the work subject to satisfactory project proposals. The **Helwel Hike** (see over) this year will ask participants to seek sponsorship to raise funds for play-kits as mentioned above.



In the afternoon of 4th February, H & C met with **ACAT** leaders, Gerald Dedekind, director and Geoff Morgan, senior field officer, and several other staff members at headquarters in Howick.



The focus is on four areas: entrepreneurial development (EDP); sustainable agriculture (SAP); health; spiritual development.

The EDP & SAP training have large areas of overlap and are now run as an **ILA (Integrated Livelihoods Approach)** training programme. The programme in Nkandla is part funded by **Helwel Trust**. A further programme is to be funded through Helwel Trust in the Nqutu area and Council would like to be able to increase their support for a further expansion of **ACAT's** work.

Mrs Mavis Luthuli (below) is an **ACAT** group member; she is with her grandchildren. She has grown spinach in her new garden which will help to feed her family and keep them healthy. As with many grannies, she bears the responsibility of raising grandchildren in the absence of parents who are either sick or deceased.

The support and encouragement she gets from her group and the wider community structures, that ACAT is assisting the communities to develop, are vital.



HELWEL HIKE 2008

with Henry Moore

in the rural environs of the Hertfordshire village of Much Hadham
Saturday 14th June

meeting at Copperfield in Station Road from 10 a.m. for a 10.30 start

A morning walk of 4½ miles through pastoral landscape, woods and fields and historic village High Street to St Andrew's Parish Church.

In the afternoon there will be a walk to visit the former home of Henry Moore where many of his sculptures are on display in the extensive grounds.

An early evening barbecue will be held in the gardens of Copperfield.

Further details from Mike & Carol French (01279-842404 or mikef@hadham99.freemove.co.uk) or Liz & Russ Sharp (01364-652333 or helwel@talktalk.net)

Eshowe Community Action Group

Helwel Trust are funding two much needed classrooms to be built at the Mathiya Primary School in the Nkandla area - in memory of the Drs Maggie & Anthony Barker and Dr Rose Kirkpatrick, whose names will be on plaques on the buildings. A brief résumé of their work and associations with Zululand will be provided on laminated card for display inside.

These buildings follow a very successful classroom built by **ECAG** in partnership with **Helwel Trust** at Mfundabasha in 2006, which Council members Mike & Carol French were able to visit last year.



Mathiya classroom that must be replaced

If you would like more copies of this News Update, Gift Aid Forms, a leaflet on leaving a Legacy to Helwel Trust or further information about Helwel Trust, ACAT or TREE please contact the Organizing Secretary, Liz Sharp at Hele Cottage, Hele Cross, Ashburton, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ13 7QX
Tel: 01364 652333 e-mail: helwel@talktalk.net
<http://www.helweltrust.co.uk>

Registered Address of the Helwel Trust:
26 Long St., Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 4JA
All the Trust's Officers give their services voluntarily.

Photographs courtesy of ACAT, TREE, Cathy Phiri & the Mowbrays

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Sustainable Lifestyles

Questions from our environment watchdog!

- Are you cutting back on your holiday air travel?
- Do you remember to take shopping bags with you so that you can refuse plastic ones?
- Are you enjoying growing better vegetables in soil from your compost heap?
- Have you written to your MP on these matters?

Remember the climate catastrophe will hit the poorest first and hardest.

Catherine Budgett Meakin
www.populationandsustainability.org

Baby talk

We are pleased to be able to give news of two recent babies born to former **Helwel Trust** volunteers.

Elliot on 7th March to Clare (née Morris) & Deepak Mathema

Ariberto on 13th January to Cathy (née Wilkins) & Phiri



Ariberto, Cathy, Phiri & Andsen

Contrasting Schools

The Mowbrays visited two of the pre-schools where TREE are involved. At Sabiza, teacher Zanele Sibiyi sits on the mat with the attention of her pupils and had the help of 4 other adults to care for 15 children

At Mfanafile, Nkosinathi Khanyile was coping with 74 children in an inadequate classroom - part of the primary school. The Head and the Lower School Co-ordinator were defensive about the unsuitable conditions.

The visit has prompted apologies and promises to sort this out. The Mowbrays hope this will lead to an improvement in the conditions for the **TREE** teacher. We'll follow this up and let you know when we have further news.

It is good that **TREE** want to show us both the best and the worst.

Pre-school at Mfanafile



Pre-school session at Sabiza