



HELWEL TRUST NEWS UPDATE

Issue No: 8

April 2009

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

GOOD NEWS - DOING MOREThe Council Meeting held in early March this year had a real buzz to it!

As you will read below we have finally been able to agree to spend a substantial amount of the legacy entrusted to us by Drs Anthony & Margaret Barker and Dr Mary-Rose Kirkpatrick. Helwel Trust has been able to continue to support the work of ACAT and TREE thanks to you, our loyal band of supporters. Now read on....

Liz Sharp

GOOD NEWS FOR KWANELE CENTRE



This is a very usual family in KwaZulu Natal, where the ugogo or granny has had to assume the responsibility of raising her grandchildren.

After almost a year we have now sent the first tranche of money to Kwanele to build their 3-roomed 'soup kitchen' in memory of our founders Drs Anthony and Maggie Barker. While the building is called a 'soup kitchen' by the Kwanele organisation, the aim of the project is to support people of all ages with HIV/AIDS in their homes. Carolyn and Howard Mowbray, when they visited last year, saw at first hand just how vital this is with the very high number of child-headed households in the area. These vulnerable children need all the support they can get as you will read in the TREE report. Carolyn Mowbray has worked hard with Kate Vilakazi, from Kwanele, and Revd Ignatius Zwane to secure an agreement with the Diocese of Zululand to build on land at St Christopher's Church that is within St Augustine's Parish. Revd Ignatius Zwane now heads up the Diocese's outreach projects from KwaNzimela and is on the Kwanele Board. Geoff Morgan from ACAT has also been a welcome and useful adviser during the negotiations to secure the site and find reputable builders in this deeply impoverished rural area. We are thrilled that our links with three organizations have come together to develop a project very close to Nqutu where Maggie and Anthony were for so many years.

ESHOWE COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

We are delighted to announce that, at our Council Meeting in March, we agreed to fund another pair of classrooms with the legacy that Helwel Trust received from Dr Mary-Rose Kirkpatrick. They will be at Ntatshana in the Nkandla area. The money was sent out straight after the meeting and building work was due to begin immediately after Easter! As ever we are impressed with ECAG's commitment and efficiency.

Currently there are 363 learners in the school's 8-grades in just three desperately overcrowded classrooms. The classrooms being built in Dr Mary-Rose's name are two of three that will make a vast difference to the situation. Up until now, pupils have been taught outside or on the veranda if it's raining which is a far from ideal working environment. ECAG believes that high quality childhood education represents one of the best investments that can be made for South Africa in eliminating poverty and enabling its citizens to have much greater life choices.

Following the meeting that we held in November 2008, we asked whether water tanks and toilets are routinely built alongside classrooms and have since learnt that they are built from additional funding applications. We were pleased to hear that funds had been donated for the Mathiya school toilets that you will have read about in the last Newsletter but are waiting to hear what the situation is at Ntatshana. Clearly health and hygiene also play a vital role in the welfare of children.

HELWEL HIKE 2009 – Saturday 20th June

This year's Hike is in Gloucestershire and takes us along the course of the disused Thames and Severn Canal. If you have never been to the Source of Thames, or seen, what was the longest tunnel in the world (when it was built), where the canal goes under the watershed, or walked along the Golden Valley of the Cotswolds – this is the occasion to do so!

We meet at Kemble station (served by trains from London, Swindon, Cheltenham and Gloucester) and walk to our lunch stop at the Tunnel House Inn by the East Portal. Then through woods above the tunnel to the village of Sapperton, with its interesting church, St Kenelm's.

From Sapperton we walk down into the Golden Valley, past the West Portal and along the canal, through a nature reserve, to Chalford. From Chalford I am arranging lifts to take you back to Kemble station.

Overall length around 15km/10 miles.

For those who want to make a weekend of it, there are numerous local hostleries and places of interest, plus Saturday evening barbecue and/or camping in the Pemberton garden a few miles away near Stroud (weather permitting).

Please use the enclosed forms to let me know if you are joining the Hike, or contact me by email or telephone.

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ACAT Africa Co-operative Action Trust

We continue to be impressed by ACAT and their work in the Nkandla area and we have been pleased to start supporting their Sustained Agriculture Programme (SAP) besides our ongoing commitment to Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP)

In ACAT's annual report for 2008, they say about a Young Farmers' project:

"The overall purpose of our youth project is to use sustainable agriculture as a means to enable disadvantaged small and young farmers to avoid juvenile delinquency by overcoming poverty in a sustainable way and for them to influence and assist others to achieve the same. By spending time with 29 young farmers, their involvement in ACAT has had life-changing effects. These were described as:-

- Being able to sit together as young people and constructively discuss their future, is something they never thought they would be able to do. Now, after whatever activity they have been doing, they sometimes like to sit, talk and encourage each other about their future.*
- They grew up thinking that growing vegetables is only for the big farmers, but now they know that they only need to pay small amounts for seeds and seedlings and they have been trained to grow their own vegetables.*
- To see and hear parents thanking them for food that they bring home is for them amazing. For some of these young people, parents have almost lost hope, not knowing how to control them."*

The additional good news is that funding has now come through from another source to add to the existing SAP programme in the Nqutu area for the next three years.

Trifina Mdadane (right in purple t-shirt) from Bashaweni in the Izingolweni District says that ACAT has helped her "get off the ground" with the R300 loan. She established her chickens and with the profit she has bought herself a fridge and freezer. She has also managed to have her garden fenced properly with a nice galvanised gate. She paid someone to make the gate and erect the fence! She then went on to start a tuck-shop which further increased her profits. Trifina says that there was a time before ACAT when her family went hungry. She has been able to educate her children and she sends her disabled son to a special school. She now employs an assistant that helps in the house, garden and business. Her husband left her after the birth of their disabled son Mandla, saying that there was no disability on his side of the family so it must have been her fault. Her shop makes a profit of R1000 p/m. She buys ex-layers (fowls) @ R27 and sells them at R45. She also adds value to the broilers she rears by slaughtering them and selling them in portions. Trifina also hires out her gas stove for special functions @ R120 a time. In all she makes about R3500 p/m.



TREE Training & Resources in Early Education

We have learnt that the 15 practitioners, who we have been supporting in TREE's 'early education development sites' in the Melmoth area, achieved their level 4 NVQ ahead of time so asked that the final year of our funding should go to provide training courses in 'Community Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (CIMCI) and Psychosocial Support for Young Children.

Nirupa Kasserchun from TREE explained, 'these courses provide more detailed information on how to counsel parents/caregivers and children who the practitioners are in daily contact with. The Psychosocial course helps practitioners build the resilience of young children & parents/caregivers and provides for in-depth counselling to teach strategies to overcome grief and bereavement.

The growing impact of HIV and AIDS in communities results in an increase in the number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC's) and Child Headed Households, so the need for the Psychosocial Support and CIMCI training is imperative. TREE has come a long way in changing the mindset of parents/caregivers in meeting children's rights and needs in the home environment. My concern is that the deep rural Melmoth Community does not have sufficient volunteers in the community to provide this support and so the Early Childhood Development Sites trained by TREE must fill the gap.'

Until now TREE has not had volunteer workers to support these children; so training of the practitioners in these fields is vital and we are pleased to help in this way. Looking to the future, TREE were delighted when we suggested that we would be happy to fund a new set of practitioners from another area such as Nqutu. We'll keep you informed!

TREE are celebrating 25 years of service to the cause of Early Education in South Africa. In August they are holding a three day symposium on 'mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS on young children' during which Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu will be speaking at a celebratory dinner. Helwel Trust is pleased to be associated with such a forward looking and successful organization and offer their congratulations.

MEETING OF FRIENDS OF HELWEL TRUST

Council are planning a special meeting for all Friends of Helwel Trust at Southwark Cathedral on **Saturday 13th March 2010** at which Liz & Russ Sharp will talk about their visit to all the projects mentioned in this News Update in early 2010 d.v. Council will also outline their hopes for the future of the Trust. Please get this date in your diaries – further details later in the year with the Annual Newsletter.

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, please contact the Organizing Secretary, Liz Sharp at
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*Registered Address of the Helwel Trust: as above
All the Trust's Officers give their services voluntarily.*

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