



HELWEL TRUST NEWS UPDATE

Issue No: 10

April 2011

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

Discerning the Way Forward Positively

Seven Helwel Trust Council members and six Friends will visit projects supported by Helwel Trust in KwaZulu/Natal in late October this year at their own expense. The purpose of the trip is to see for ourselves the difference that the grants have made on the ground and to discern how best to continue to support our Zulu friends in the future.

In order to give you the most up-to-date report, the production of the Annual Newsletter will be delayed until early January 2012. Please contact Liz Sharp in the usual way if you would like to purchase cards before Christmas.

ACAT Africa Co-operative Action Trust

There are many problems that beset ACAT's administration as they seek to support the rural communities they serve as effectively as possible.

Their latest report lists the following key difficulties:

- The strength of the Rand against other currencies (Helwel Trust donates in Rands thus bearing the problem ourselves);
- A dry winter followed by good early summer rain that led to flooding;
- Lack of markets for rural producers;
- Lack of fencing;
- The devastating effects of HIV & Aids leading to much illness and many deaths in all areas of society.

Yet against this backdrop so much is achieved.

- In both the Nqutu & Nkandla areas, farmers are caring for sick members of their own family as well as providing for child-headed households.

- In Nqutu 98 new gardens have been planted providing those families with fresh food and the opportunity to sell surplus that it turn generates income. (Unemployment was running at 70% in the Nqutu area when Russ and I visited last year.)

- ACAT used the opportunity of the extended school holidays during the World Cup to provide young people from their areas of operation including Nkandla with a youth version of the Basic Skills course that includes such topics as basic book-keeping. This course is in high demand by both young and old as they attempt to bring themselves out of poverty.

Helwel Trust remains convinced that the grants that we are able to make because of your generosity continue to be well spent. Thank you.



TREE Training & Resources in Early Education

We are now at the start of the second year of a three year training programme for ten pre-school teachers in the Nqutu area.

- This training is so much more than simply giving trainees the skills to care for young children effectively.

- Besides learning parenting skills, how to stimulate children, tell stories, improvise play and how to recycle waste material to make toys, trainees are taught about all aspects of basic hygiene and the prevention of HIV & Aids

- These skills are then passed down to the children's parents thus cascading the grants that you make through us to the wider community.

The downside is that the programme is expensive – distances are huge and roads poor making travel to meetings difficult with a suitable venue not always available and sometimes resorting to classes under the trees – fine except when it's raining! It is thanks to everyone's commitment, Trainers and Trainees, that so much is achieved.



We at Helwel are responding to their commitment by setting out to fund the training of (at least) one Trainee at a cost of approximately £2,500 each per annum through this years **Helwel Hike hosted by Bill Johnston in West Sussex on 18th June**. Please see over for full details.

Four of us have already jumped the gun by running the 9 mile Grizzly Cub in an attempt to raise funds to pay for a second trainee and to celebrate Russ

Sharp's life, his love for our Zulu friends and of running in wild places



Catherine Lowe, Holly Ashby, Nikki & Liz Sharp at the start

uKHANYE (formerly kwaNele)

The news from Kate Vilakazi and Sheila Ngobese continues to be very positive. In February Kate wrote

'Ukhanye had HIV/AIDs awareness on the 17th Jan 2011 which was preceded by distribution of clothes to our orphaned children and sick persons. Electricity and water are in place. We've enough furniture and kitchen utensils. Ukhanye is serving (feeding) 96 orphaned children and 10 sick persons. Many people are willing to be enrolled but Ukhanye has no space though they are willing to assist them. Ukhanye's medium goal is to roll out ARV's (anti-retroviral drugs for HIV positive people) and increase number of home visits. Long term goal is to have Hospice in our area. Thank you for helping us to worship our living God by helping His people, our community.'

What more is there to say other than thank you, Anthony and Maggie Barker and other who have enabled this work to happen.



Vegetable plot with uKhanye Centre in background

MONEY MATTERS

Could you Will it for Helwel Trust?

It has been encouraging over recent years to find that a number of younger people have become friends of Helwel, adding to those many supporters who knew the Barkers or had worked with them at the Charles Johnson Hospital, and who have recognized the effectiveness of our help for projects in Zululand. However, the average age of Helwel's donor base continues to advance, as all of us inexorably get older, and we will see the level of its regular funding gradually diminish.

There have been a number of generous legacies in recent years including one from our

Founders, Maggie & Anthony Barker, and also from Dr Mary Rose Kirkpatrick, that have helped us to fund the building of a number of school classrooms and enabled the building of the uKhanye (Kwanele) Centre. Russ Sharp, whose untimely death we have reported in the previous Newsletter, had also been far-sighted enough to include in his Will a legacy to Helwel. Have you, or might you consider doing the same? A Will does not have to be completely rewritten, and in most cases it is possible to make a simple alteration by a formally witnessed Codicil. Why not have a chat with your solicitor?

Have you noticed that ...the relief on gift aided donations will stop from April 5th with the result that, for example, an original gift of £10 under the current scheme yields £12.82 but from April 6th will only yield £12.50.

This will make a substantial difference to our Zulu friends.

We are very grateful to all our donors and do try to write to everyone individually, please excuse us if this has been overlooked. Meanwhile if you would like to increase your regular donation to compensate for the change in Gift Aid we're sure that the Zulus will appreciate it.

Would you like to tell your church or other organisations about Helwel?

If so please contact Liz Sharp who will arrange a speaker or, if you're sufficiently confident, will provide you with a PowerPoint presentation on disc.

HELWEL HIKE Saturday 18th June

Honeysuckle Cottage, Redford, near Midhurst
Sussex GU29 0QG

Start 10.30 for 8 scenic miles with a pub stop for lunch and opportunity to continue the fun with an evening Braai (barbecue)

Please use the enclosed sign up form

SNIPPETS

Situation Vacant:

It won't have escaped your notice that we desperately need someone to update and take over management of our web-site. If you have the time and skills please contact Liz Sharp - see below for contact details

Cathy Wilkins

(Volunteer with Zisizeni in 2003) is now living in northern Ghana where she and her husband are both working. She says that "the work is interesting with a strong focus on agriculture and improving Ghanaian competitiveness in key crops of maize, soybean, rice, citrus, pineapple and mango"

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 Liz Sharp, the Organizing Secretary, at
Hele Cottage, Hele Cross, Ashburton,
NEWTON ABBOT, TQ13 7QX Tel: 01364 652333
e-mail: liz60@talktalk.net <http://www.helweltrust.co.uk>

Registered Address of the Helwel Trust: as above

All the Trust's Officers give their services voluntarily.

Photographs courtesy of Liz Sharp & Kate Vilakazi

Edited by Liz Sharp

Published by the Helwel Trust

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable inks by

Wotton Printers Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 4DZ