



Caterham Overseas Aid Trust

20 Greenwood Gardens

Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6RX

Phone : 01883 380104

Web : www.overseasaid.org.uk

Mail : secretary@overseasaid.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 283579

Hon. Patron Rt. Hon. Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC

Christmas 2013

Dear Supporters,



Can something good come from something sad ? Well, yes I think it often does and here is a perfect example.

In February this year, Harold Barrett, a much loved and respected parishioner of St. John's Church died just before his 90th birthday. He was always a most generous supporter of COAT and particularly interested in Practical Action, having met Dr. Schumacher. Some months later Harold's son Keith asked to meet me. I was stunned to hear that Harold had arranged for £10,000 to be given to COAT in his memory. What amazing generosity and what a compliment to us to know that he trusted us to distribute it appropriately. Did I wish I had known this before Harold died? Yes, I suppose so, to have thanked him, yet it was typical of the man to do things quietly without wanting any recognition.

Luckily I felt confident enough to suggest to Keith that the bulk of the money go through Practical Action and they sent us many different possible projects for Keith to consider. These are what he has chosen:

Turkana in Northern Kenya is a spectacularly wild region dominated by lava fields and extinct volcanos with miles and miles of dusty red earth and scorched trees and empty river beds. The people are hardy and adept at coping with extended periods of time without rain but are now struggling to survive. The droughts have worsened over the last six years and people are forced to walk up to 20 kilometres a day sometimes to find water points which are shared by wild animals and often contaminated with fatal water-borne illnesses such as dysentery and cholera. Livestock die, crops fail and people starve. Practical Action, working in partnership with Oxfam, are operating in 60 villages across the six districts of Turkana to ensure that 45,250 people will have access to at least 20 litres of clean water a day. With appropriate technology it is possible to pump water from deep underground. They are constructing 40 boreholes - some 70 metres deep - 15 using solar powered pumps, extending existing piping systems to provide clean safe water every day of the year. They are also going to construct 30 new hand dug shallow wells to ensure that women and children across the region will have to walk no further than one kilometre to reach a supply of fresh water. £5,875 of Harold's money will provide seven of these new shallow wells.

In complete contrast, a further £4,570 is going to Practical Action's project Pathways from Poverty in Bangladesh where they have the completely opposite problem of no water. The increasingly severe and unpredictable floods caused by sustained tropical monsoon downpours from June to November breach the river banks driving water into fields and homes, now regularly leaving 60 percent of the country under flood water and thousands of the poorest without homes, food and livelihoods. These floods are happening every five years now, their regularity and severity forecast to increase.

Practical Action is targeting the extreme poor families living on the flood protection embankments close to the Brahmaputra and Tista rivers, land no-one else wants because it is so easily swept away by floods. They are families who have barely anything to call their own living in the most precarious of environments and extreme

poverty. With the men forced to leave home for long periods to seek work, it is the women, children and people with disabilities who are left behind and whom this project is primarily targeting.

Just some examples of the project activities are growing pumpkins on the sandbars, floating gardens, fish breeding in cage aquaculture and small scale livestock management - cows, sheep ducks. Harold's money will support 150 families in these ways, providing the women with an income to meet education and health needs.

Some gift aid has been generated on this money and Keith would like to send a further £1,000 of that to be divided between Tree Aid and Sightsavers. I am hoping that COAT can also send their extra end of year gifts of £500 to each of these charities so that we are really working together with Harold.

All these projects are exactly in line with COAT's ideals and mission and we are very proud to be associated with them. I have full details available if anyone wants to know more. A further bonus from all this has been getting to know Keith better. He must be very proud of his father whose generosity I know has spread beyond just COAT.

PRACTICAL ACTION

Our own project with Practical Action is now completed and both Geraint Jenkins and Barbara Whiteford, COAT Trustees and Committee Members, visited several of our Practical Action Projects in Kitale, West Kenya, this summer and have brought back wonderful tales and photographs of happy, excited people collecting their clean water and able to go about their everyday lives.

Geraint writes:

"A C.H.E.C.K group went to Kimilili, and six of them, including myself and Barbara, spent a whole day in the company of Practical Action staff, who accompanied us to see the protected springs and Water Kiosks which COAT had helped provide in the slums in Kitale. The Projects are community initiatives which are sustained and managed by a team of local people, who benefit not only from the use of the water, but also by the employment and knock on opportunities which are provided by these facilities. It is a water supply, of course, but many local people use the running water to irrigate their shambas and market gardens to grow food and take to the market. It encompasses all that COAT promotes i.e. helping the communities to help themselves.



Committee Members of one of the Urban Water Kiosks proudly met us to show their involvement in and management of their District Project. They explained the massive improvements in the health and livelihoods of their community members as a result of a clean and regular supply of water. Barbara and I and the others were overawed and humbled by the work and progress that was being made now that a regular supply of clean water was available".

I don't forget our other projects. It is just a question of space. Perhaps I will devote my next letter entirely to them, meanwhile I have some other things to tell you.

We are looking forward to a Quiz Night on Saturday, 23rd November at St. Mary's Church with popular quiz master (and actor!) Michael Cooke. I am guessing this will be just as this letter is ready to go out so I will thank him in advance !

One other 'non-event' I want to mention is our usual Christmas Tree of Goodwill with Coulsdon Rotary. For the first time in many years, they are not doing this this year. It is a big commitment for them on ten consecutive evenings for a different charity each night and they just don't have enough helpers at the moment. This gives me the opportunity to thank them for all they have done for us for a long time, raising many thousands of pounds. We have had a lot of fun and have really appreciated it.

It is not long now until our Churches' Christmas Appeal. I am delighted to tell you that the Revd. Tim Goode of St. Luke's, Whyteleafe and St. Peter & St. Paul's, Chaldon has agreed to become one of our Patrons. We are also awaiting the new minister at the URC as they have constantly been one of our greatest supporters over the years and I feel sure this will continue.

And now for something completely different : COAT committee member Geraint Jenkins has been immortalised! -

School honours well-loved teacher - *“On Friday 25th October de Stafford School in Burntwood Lane, Caterham, officially opened ‘The Jenkins Centre’ to offer extra-curricular support to ensure students reach their full potential. The Jenkins Centre has been named in recognition of Geraint Jenkins MBE who has given over 30 years’ service to the school”. (article reproduced with kind permission of the Caterham Independent)*



Lots of events still to come ! Book the dates now:

Barn Dance - Saturday, 8th February in the Centenary Hall with The Odd Sock do dum Band

Wine Tasting - a first for us so do please support this on St. David's Day, Saturday 1st March in The Soper Hall with Julie Pescod.

BEDROCK - back by popular demand ! Saturday, 29th March in The Humphrey's Hall, Caterham School.

Watch out for Brian Holloway's little Yellow Van starring in the Miller Centre's January production of Alan Bennett's The Lady in the Van. How are they going to get it on to the stage ? !

It just remains for me to thank everyone on the Committee for the huge amount of work they put in, to Beryl Allen for hosting our meetings in such comfortable surroundings, to Wally Wallis for auditing our accounts and to Carole Harvey and Fr. Jerry for their help with the paperwork over the Street Collection - and to all our collectors (about £15 down on last year so not at all bad in present circumstances).

Finally to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a good 2014 - where has this year gone !

Margaret Deards

Margaret Deards
Chairman

Committee Members :

Name	Responsibilities	Phone Number
Margaret Deards	Chairperson	01883 380104
Phil Saville	Secretary	01883 341063
Barbara Whiteford	Treasurer and St Mary's rep.	01883 340994
Brian Holloway	For tools and bric a brac.	01883 341534
Geraint Jenkins MBE	C.H.E.C.K.	01959 564772
Joan Clarke	Vice-Chair and U.R.C. rep.	01883 344953
Anne Walker	Church of the Sacred Heart rep.	0208 660 9631
Cllr. Jill Caudle	St. John's	01883 344031
Sue Weeks-Wheeldon	St. John's	01883 345972
Beryl Allen	U.R.C. Rep.	01883 344907

CATERHAM OVERSEAS AID TRUST
Accounts for 12 months ended 30 September 2013

<u>Income</u>	£	£
Donations	5580.67	
Churches Christmas Donations	1534.52	
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	200.00	
St Mary's Formula Giving	250.00	
Catholic Women	77.00	
St Swithuns' Ladies Circle	100.00	
<i>Gift Aid Tax 2012/13 – see note below.</i>		7,742.19
<u>Fund Raising</u>		
Ebay, Scrap and Boot Sales (Mr and Mrs Holloway)	1354.00	
Barn Dance	772.50	
Piano Magic Concert	300.00	
Bedrock Music Evening	866.00	
Fun Run	48.00	
Nepal Evening	186.60	
Sale of Chocolate	13.60	
Coulsdon Rotary Santa Collection	515.54	
Caterham Carnival	300.45	
Coulsdon Fair	337.30	
Street Collection	484.66	
Coffee Morning (Ann Walker)	100.00	
		5,278.65
		13,020.84
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Administration	Nil	
VSO	3000.00	
Water Aid	3000.00	
Self Help Africa	3000.00	
Practical Action	3000.00	
Tree Aid	500.00	
Tools for Self Reliance	250.00	
Sight Savers	500.00	
Insurance Premiums (Public Events)	122.96	
Barn Dance (Hall £120)	120.00	
Coulsdon Fair Site Fee	25.00	
Caterham Carnival Site Fee	25.00	
Tombola Chocolates	285.31	
		13,828.27
Deficit for year		(807.43)
Balance at 1 October 2012		1,742.76
Balance at 30 September 2013		935.33
Represented by Account with Lloyds Bank		

The above accounts are in accordance with the books, vouchers and other information given to me and I consider that they give a true and fair view of the position of the Caterham Overseas Aid Trust for the year ended 30 September 2013 and how the funds are held. Gift Aid Tax £879.50 received October 2013.

Marion R. Whiteford
 Honorary Treasurer

B. F. Holloway
 Honorary Auditor

18th November 2013