



Caterham Overseas Aid Trust

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

Dear Friends,

Summer 2013

- and it really IS summer ! Gorgeous weather, wonderful tennis and rugby and two excellent fetes. Both Caterham Carnival and the Coulsdon Rotary Fete were on lovely days with crowds of people and a great atmosphere. Thank goodness though for Brian Holloway's generator and fridge or the chocolates would have been liquid ! In fact we are grateful to Brian for all sorts of things on fete days. He brings his little yellow van on to the field laden with gazebos, tables and all sorts of things. It must be very hard work getting it all packed up and unpacked at the end of an exhausting day. We really couldn't manage without him. Plus, he is VERY persuasive at getting people to have a go !

The cost of the chocolates from Bookers Cash and Carry was £286. Thanks to generous sponsorship of £170 from two anonymous donors and, as always, local architect Random Greenway (who shares an office with our secretary Phil Saville and probably doesn't get much option !), we made £437 clear profit after site fees. We made a further £50 from selling Barbara Holloway's lovely homemade marmalade which helps a lot.

Now to go back to where I ended my Christmas letter : the Coulsdon Rotary Christmas Tree collection made a terrific £515.54; the four churches Christmas appeal made £1,504.52 plus an extra £250 from St. Mary's formula giving and £200 from Our Lady of Mount Carmel - all absolutely wonderful thank you. £800 from Brian's boot sales, eBay sales and scrap metal sales - just since November ! !



Then BEDROCK - the best ever - £1,634. £11,985 since they started playing for us. This year, again in the perfect venue of the Humphreys Hall, Caterham School - generously without any cost to us from either school or band. It was very crowded, very loud and very, very much enjoyed. We only have to announce a date and we are virtually sold out immediately. Thank you BEDROCK, you are stars. My contact at the school, David Clark, is leaving at the end of term to take up a headship of his own in Battle and their so obliging caretaker Brian Dunphy is retiring. We wish them both every happiness and thank them for all they have done for COAT.

Committee member Sue Weeks-Wheeldon with husband Peter had a very adventurous holiday this year trekking in the Himalayas and on St. George's Day evening they gave an illustrated talk about their trip. We were delighted to have the 3rd Caterham (St. John's) Scouts and their leaders join us and the evening raised £186.60.

On 1st June, we had a superb concert at the URC "Rejoice and Sing" by the ReCreation Singers with soloists John Langley and John Lofthouse and Surrey composer David Perkins accompanying the choir on the piano. A big thank

you to everyone who took part and especially David Wensley for arranging it all and for Bill Pyke and Michael Pritchard for co-ordinating everything at the church.

Finally we were lucky enough to be joint beneficiaries of the "Piano Magic" series of concerts held at St. John's Church during the Caterham Festival along with raising money for the Christmas Day Lunch at the Brunton Centre. Thank you to John Parkes for choosing COAT and for bringing so much pleasure to us all. We think we will get almost £300.

We get many generous donations from individuals, both regularly and unexpectedly. These mean a lot to us and really encourage us in what we do - thank you seems inadequate.

News from our Projects:

<p>Practical Action</p> 	<p>Our three year project in the slums of Kisumu and Kitale in Kenya is coming to an end but both Geraint Jenkins and Barbara Whiteford will be visiting the area when they are in Kenya this summer with C.H.E.C.K and will report back to us. They both went to Practical Action's Supporters Day this year and were (as always) very impressed with the charity. We will certainly continue to support them with a new project.</p>
<p>Water Aid</p> 	<p>They report that because there has been a military coup in the country on top of abnormally heavy rains, work has been hampered. Nevertheless almost 9,000 more people now have access to safe water and effective sanitation facilities.</p>
<p>Self Help Africa</p> 	<p>We are supporting their project on Climate Change working with almost 2000 smallholder farmers in Northern Ghana to increase agriculture production and improve their quality of life. Often there is what is called a 'hungry season' when there is very little to eat but by using good quality seed, irrigation, composting, double cropping, tree planting (especially fruit trees), improved animal husbandry, bee keeping and the use of smokeless stoves, an awful lot can be done.</p>
<p>V.S.O.</p> 	<p>Our current volunteers are Crawford Fulton, paediatrician in a town called Bahir Dar at the source of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia, which has a population of 180,000 and one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world, and Chris Holt who started his placement as a Nursing Instructor in Malawi in March this year,</p>
<p>C.H.E.C.K – Community Health and Education for the Children of Kimilili.</p> 	<p>When Geraint first went out to Kimilili, almost 40 years ago, there was one little school with absolutely no equipment at all. No desks, no flooring, no books - just hundreds of young boys desperate to learn. Now there are 4 schools – boys' primary and senior and girls' primary and senior giving a wonderful education to about 4000 children.</p>  <p>Every two years Geraint takes a party out to help with a project there and with the local hospital. COAT always tries to give them £1,000 for something specific. This year they hope to provide guttering, downpipes and storage tanks for St. Theresa's High School for Girls. They have an ablution block but very often no water at all. If they can collect rain water and store it for secondary water it will make a big difference.</p>

	<p>St. Theresa's is a boarding school for 450 girls which gives them so much more opportunity to learn than when they were having to walk many miles each day to school. The schools raise as much money as they can themselves and then work together with C.H.E.C.K to undertake the project.</p> <p>We now have 4 COAT members (out of 10) who are also on the C.H.E.C.K committee ! Two are going out to Kimilili this year so we will hear more about it - Geraint and Barbara and, of course Alison Clarke (Joan's daughter) who will be returning for the 6th time.</p> <p>The wonderful thing at the moment is that all four Head Teachers are over here for three weeks and we have had an opportunity to meet them all. They are visiting many local schools and churches as well, of course, as seeing something of London. They are such lovely people, it has been a delight to meet them especially as we have heard so much about them over the years. One of them, Peter - Head of the Boys' Primary School, was a pupil of Geraint's when he first went out there.</p> <p>We are proud to be supporting them and it has been fascinating hearing the Heads talking about life and all the problems they encounter which we could never imagine. Children who have been orphaned and who would not normally be able to carry on to secondary school but who have been singled out as having particular ability are supported through school by volunteers over here. If that is something from feel you would like to take on, do speak to Geraint.</p>
<p>Other Projects</p>	<p>We are still committed to raising a further £5,500 this year, and more if we want to give grants to organisations such as Tree Aid or Sightsavers or any of the others we like to help, so lots of work still to do.</p>

I only have one future date for you: a Quiz Night at St. Mary's on Saturday, 23rd November. Our annual Barn Dance has had to be postponed until the New Year as we could not find a suitable date between our callers and the venue. There will of course still be our Street Collection on Saturday, 12th October and I would love to hear from anyone who can help.

My thanks to you all again and to the Committee members for their hard work.

Thank you for your time in reading this. On behalf of all of us on the Committee, we wish you a very happy summer.

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 / eBay – more goods always needed please for sale	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
Beryl Allen	U.R.C. Rep.	01883 344907
Sue Weeks-Wheeldon	St. John's	01883 345972