



Caterham Overseas Aid Trust

20 Greenwood Gardens
Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6RX
Phone : 01883 380104

www.caterhamoverseasaid.org.uk
Mail : secretary@caterhamoverseasaid.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 283579

Hon Patron: The Right Reverend The Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark

Summer Newsletter 2021

A slightly earlier newsletter this summer because we have a very important item!

Dear Supporters,

This is a very special year for COAT - our 40th Anniversary since starting all that time ago in 1981! There are still two of us on the Committee who have been involved the whole time - Geraint and myself!

We want to mark the occasion and celebrate it with a Thanksgiving Service and we would LOVE to see as many of you there as possible. It is our chance to thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given us over all these years. So, we would like to invite you to a:

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

In the presence of our Hon. Patron, Bishop Jonathan Clarke, Bishop of Croydon
On Saturday, 17th July 2021

at the Caterham United Reformed Church, Harestone Valley Road, CR3 6SX.

Programme: 10 am Welcome and Coffee with a chance to meet

11am Service

12.15pm Drinks

1.00pm Light lunch

Displays and representatives from the charities we support will be there.

We have been anxiously waiting to see if Lockdown will be really over and, though it looks very hopeful that all restrictions will be lifted by 21st June, it can't be guaranteed just yet. The event would have to be postponed if social distancing, mask wearing and no singing allowed in church are still in place BUT we are going to be positive and hope the event will go ahead as planned. So please do come, we would love to meet you all. Please let us know by Saturday 26th June at the latest. Either return the slip at the end of this letter or just ring any Committee Member, making sure we have a contact number in case needed.

Now, what has happened since Christmas? It was better than we dared hope. The Churches' Christmas collection happened even though the churches were mainly closed and we still raised £1,890.00. We had an extra fantastic collection from the Caterham Baptist Church this time which brought in £2,476.25, plus all the many generous donations we have come to rely on from you our supporters: thank you so very much.

I would particularly like to thank all those who give regularly by direct debit.

Donations to can be made by BACS sort code 77-30-17 Account Number: 00197263
or by cheque to COAT.

Obviously there have been no fundraising events though we did have a very interesting Zoom evening with Bruno Guillaume talking about the work that **Practical Action** does. "A world that works better for everyone" tackling problems from drought to monsoon rains and flooding, energy, urban slums without sanitation or clean water, farming, climate related and natural hazards. 91p out of every £1 raised by Practical Action goes to their work. Bruno will be at our Thanksgiving event on the 17th July and you will have a chance to speak to him.



“ Thank you to the
Caterham Overseas Aid Trust.
With your support we will be
able to help Nepalese
communities Turn the Tables
on Climate Change”
(Practical Action)

Kandhari and her daughter prepare produce for market.

All charities are suffering, especially with the cut in the government overseas budget. **V.S.O.** for instance fear they may have to severely cut the number of volunteers they take on and the number of countries they work in. They are waiting to hear. It would be very tragic.

Amazingly, we have managed to give all four of our charities their full £3,000 this financial year, which doesn't end until 30th September 2021. We have also managed to give **The Leprosy Mission** £500 which got matched funding so is the equivalent of £1,000. Sadly, there are still thousands of people living with leprosy, a disease of poverty, and our money is to go towards building a Community Hub in the Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique, where sufferers can go to be diagnosed and treated and to learn that leprosy doesn't need to be feared. We also donated £500, again matched funded, to **Sightsavers** towards their valuable work.

Now there is not much left in the bank...

Our new project with **Self Help Africa** is supporting the production and processing of cashew nuts in Burkina Faso. Apparently introducing beekeeping to the orchards helps increase yield dramatically by better pollination. Our money will provide hives and everything needed (protective suits, smokers etc.) plus training for the women cashew farmers. Something to think about when we are nibbling them with our G&Ts!

While writing about Self Help Africa, I am sure you will be interested to learn how I used the money given in memory of my late husband Murray. As part of their "Help us Plant a Million Trees" campaign we have been able to pay for 3,000 saplings to be planted in Africa in areas where Self Help Africa works - Malawi, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia - based on the local conditions and soil type. Trees will be chosen to provide food, medicines, fodder, shade and an income: they will help remove greenhouse carbon, will rehabilitate poor soil restoring nitrogen and nutrients and go a long way to helping small holder farmers improve their quality of life. PLUS 300 trees in the U.K. planted in places like sports clubs, schools and community centres. These could be Oak, Birch, Scots Pine, Hazel or Rowan. I like to think there will be a big strong Oak tree somewhere one day in his memory!

We have some wonderful photos and letters from the women who have been helped through our latest project "**SCOM Women's Empowerment Programme**". This has all been set up by Meshack Okoth, headmaster of the SCOM School and known personally to Geraint Jenkins on our committee. We were supporting Meshack's school in the slums of Nairobi with a meal a day for the children but, of course, that had to close with lockdown so he came up with this idea because families were going hungry. COAT has sponsored ten ladies and one of our supporters was so taken with the idea, she sponsored another three! All sorts of enterprises, a good example being street food. The ladies have stalls selling dried fish, chapattis, groceries, fried mandazi (local cakes), boiled eggs, maize, bananas and bhajia (fried peeled potatoes). All of them send their thanks and end saying, "God bless you all". We will print these and have copies of them for you to see on the 17th, but here is one encouraging report:



Name: GLADYS ATIEKA

Age: 28 Years

Married with 3 children

Resident in Mathare

Gladys is a beneficiary of Women's Empowerment Programme: she was doing casual work as a maid earning 3,700 KShs (£25 per month). Her husband is a casual labourer. Gladys decided to start her own business to help meet the needs in her family. She started the business of frying bhajia and now she is able to earn around 7,000 KShs (£47) per month.

She is very grateful to the SCOM charity and to COAT for their generosity in supporting the Women's Empowerment Programme.

One last piece of good news: our Treasurer, Barbara Whiteford, has completed the COAT 2020-21 gift aid tax reclaim and we have received £2,851.41 back from HMRC. This represents many hours of work for her so we are very grateful - and to those of you who are able to gift aid your donations.

Right! See you on the 17th July!

Our thanks and best wishes to you all,

Margaret Deards

Margaret Deards

Committee

Name	Responsibilities	Phone Number
Margaret Deards	Chairperson	01883 380104
Barbara Whiteford	Treasurer and St Mary's rep.	01883 340994
Brian Holloway	For TFSR tools and Ebay sales	01883 341534
Geraint Jenkins MBE	Charity Commission and Street Collection	01883 819531
Ann Walker	Church of the Sacred Heart rep.	01883 624773
Sue Weeks-Wheeldon	St. John's rep.	01883 345972
Frances Loveless	URC rep	01883 337046
Michelle Brophy	Website	07969 399986
Pauline Johns	Water Aid rep	01883 341909
Judi Saville	Committee member	01883 341063

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Name(s) _____

I/we would like to come to the special 40th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 17th July 2021 at the Caterham United Reformed Church. (Unrestricted numbers.)

Please reserve _____ places for lunch in the URC Hall. (Sadly, numbers restricted to 100.)

I realise the event will have to be postponed if lockdown restrictions are still in place.

Signed _____ Contact number _____

Please return to me, Margaret Deards, at 20 Greenwood Gardens, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6RX. Phone 01883 380104. Email: mdeards@icloud.com
Or contact any committee member.