



## Caterham Overseas Aid Trust

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Registered Charity No. 283579

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

### Christmas Newsletter 2021

Dear Supporters,

**COAT is 40 Years Old! 1981 - 2021**

**Almost £500,000 raised and thousands of people helped out of poverty  
and given the chance to support themselves.**

**ALL THANKS TO YOU.**

How do you write a newsletter when so little has happened? We were SO disappointed to have to cancel our special Thanksgiving Service. We had been really looking forward to meeting you and celebrating with you. Bishop Jonathan, our Honorary Patron, is retiring next March so it seems very unlikely that we will have another chance. Our thanks of course go to him and to the Revd. Julian Thomas and the Elders of Caterham United Reformed Church for being prepared to host the event. Barry Williams, the organist, put so much into the planning but, alas, COVID put a stop to everything.

We have however much to be grateful for. Your wonderful support carried on and donations, both regular and one-offs, came in as normal. Double from Our Ladies of Mount Carmel because they knew we would find it hard this year, a generous tithing of a windfall from a friend, an unexpected donation on the death of a supporter, homemade crafts sold, eBay sales, money in lieu of birthday presents, gift aid reclaimed - so many things. What we didn't get, of course, was money from fundraising events. However, we now look forward to the Churches Christmas Appeal and the promise of a Surrey Harmony Concert in Spring. The Committee is very keen to get started again and ideas of quizzes, a street collection, more concerts, wine tasting etc are all being discussed.

Amazingly we honoured all our pledges plus £500 each to Sightsavers and The Leprosy Mission both of which got matched funding from the Government making the donations worth £1,000 each. After all that we still had money over at the end of our financial year. Normally we love giving this to extra charities but this year the Committee thought it prudent to hold on to funds until the new financial year which started on 1st October when we immediately wrote cheques for the first instalment of this year's giving to Water Aid, Practical Action, Self Help Africa and V.S.O. totalling £6,000! We don't know what is ahead. Our charities are finding it hard too and are grateful to their regular supporters.

Barbara Whiteford has prepared the accounts on the back of this letter and once again Wally Wallis has audited them meticulously - thank you both of you.

COAT had a display at  
St. John's Church  
for the National Heritage Weekend.



## OUR PROJECTS

All the charities we support have a desperate desire to see a global effort tackle the challenge of Climate Change and they are working hard for it themselves. They are the ones who see the devastation caused by monsoons, torrential rain and flooding, landslides, drought, no water to drink or to water crops. In fact, Practical Action was represented at the Conference in Glasgow.

### PRACTICAL ACTION (PA)

Planting for Progress in Zimbabwe: this project started at the end of 2019 and of course the coronavirus pandemic created many challenges. Nevertheless great advances have been made. Hydrological surveyors have identified sites where there is good availability of underground water; work has started drilling boreholes that, together with solar powered pumps, will bring year round crop irrigation to farmers. Morale in the community is high and everyone is motivated. I quote "We want to make this desert area green through our hard work. We want to show our grandchildren what is possible."



SHA: Bee Keepers in Burkina Faso



PA: Healthy crops in Zimbabwe

### SELF HELP AFRICA (SHA)

Ray Jordan, CEO of Self Help Africa, has written to tell us that they have joined forces with United Purpose, the largest NGO based in Wales. They are excited about the merger which will allow them to reach even more people - working to eradicate poverty in 17 different countries, reaching 5 million people this year. It is still all about expertise in agricultural programming, water, sanitation, hygiene, social accountability and humanitarian programming. Ray is leading the merged organisation.

There is good news about the beehive project we are supporting for the cashew producers in Burkina Faso. They are already producing their first honey and the cashew trees are achieving higher yields through improved planting and effective pollination. Nearly 3,000 women are active in the cashew sector through five cooperatives of producers. They are being trained in modern techniques of honey production and cashew nut production which will create another source of income for them and their families.

### WATER AID

Water Aid reports that due to school closures following the pandemic, they have not yet been able to complete hygiene activities in the 5 schools they are working with in Dolakha, Nepal. Work is ready to start as soon as possible. All have had their detailed surveying and technical designs completed for the improvements needed to the water and sanitation infrastructure. Construction work on the remaining 8 water supply schemes should mean clean water being delivered to the communities by Summer 2022 - restrictions and lockdowns permitting.

Donations by BACS sort code 77-30-17 Account Number: 00197263 or by cheque to COAT.  
Caterham Overseas Aid Trust Newsletter: Christmas 2021

## V.S.O.

They have still not had any confirmation about their funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office but are hopeful they will get some good news in the next few weeks. Meanwhile they have provided us with an update on their work in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia, an area of severe conflict. They are supporting pregnant women and new mothers with financial help to enable them to buy the very basics in food, medicine, clothes and even blankets for newborns. It sounds very grim and some of the hospitals and health centres have been looted during the conflict. They are training health workers and providing them with basic medical supplies so they can go out into the camps to support the young women.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

We were very sorry to receive Brian Holloway's resignation. I can't tell you how much we will miss him! He wrote "May I take this opportunity to thank you and the Committee for the pleasure in working alongside you all over the past years and may COAT continue with its good work. I would like to be regarded as a Friend of COAT and will continue to sell items on eBay for the charity for as long as possible." Thank you Brian for all you've done, especially for all your work with Tools for Self Reliance.

Also, our lovely Ann Walker, representing the Sacred Heart Church, has been in hospital for several weeks. She is home now and we pray she continues to make a full recovery.

Again, we were sad to hear of the death of former Committee Member Beryl Allen and we send our condolences to her family. She was very special.

Really, what this means is that the Committee is getting older. Poor Geraint is now the only male. We would love some new blood. Think about it!

The world is in turmoil, every action we make and deed we do has a vital part to play. As I write this the Cop 26 Conference has just finished. A serious commitment or lip service? Some nice news, the East Surrey Museum in Caterham is also 40 years old this year and they have asked us to have a small display there.

So, a strange year once again with mixed news and serious hold ups because of the pandemic. Nevertheless on behalf of everyone on the Committee, I wish you a happy Christmas and we look forward to a positive 2022.

As always, thanks to Shay in Crafts Stationers for printing this.  
Stay safe and well. With my best wishes,



Margaret Deards

Do you like this quote from E. F. Schumacher, founder of Practical Action?

"Perhaps we cannot raise the winds but each of us can put up the sail so that when the wind comes, we can catch it."

## Committee

Name	Responsibilities	Phone Number
Margaret Deards	Chairperson & Practical Action rep.	01883 380104
Barbara Whiteford	Treasurer & St Mary's rep.	01883 340994
Geraint Jenkins MBE	Charity Commission & Street Collection	01883 819531
Ann Walker	SHA & 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	VSO rep. & Website	07969 399986
Pauline Johns	Water Aid rep	01883 341909
Judi Saville	Committee Member	01883 341063



**CATERHAM OVERSEAS AID TRUST**  
Accounts for 12 months ended 30 September 2021

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations	10981.53	
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim (2020-21)	2851.41	
St Mary's Church Formula Giving	250.00	
Churches Christmas Donations	1870.00	
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	500.00	
Donations in memory of Murray Deards	1302.09	
Baptist Church	2476.25	
		20,231.28
<b><u>Fund Raising</u></b>		
Ebay (Brian Holloway)	208.00	
Cheese Tasting event	375.00	
Donation for cost of cheese	70.00	
Mask Enterprise (Frances Loveless)	75.00	
		728.00
		<b>20,959.28</b>
<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>		
Administration	Nil	
VSO	3000.00	
Water Aid	3000.00	
Self Help Africa (Inc project in memory of M Deards)	4500.00	
Practical Action	3000.00	
Sports for Christ Outreach Ministry	1080.00	
Leprosy Mission	500.00	
Sight Savers	500.00	
Cheese for Cheese Tasting	70.00	
		<b>15,650.00</b>
Surplus for year		5,309.28
Balance at 1 October 2020		3,065.45
Balance at 30 September 2021		8,374.73
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 2021 and how the funds are held.

*Barbara R. Whitford*  
Honorary Treasurer

*L.J. Walker*  
Honorary Examiner

17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.