



# The Catherine Bullen Foundation

*Making a difference in rural Namibia*

## *NEWSLETTER*

No: 38

Summer 2019

### ***Rocks hold up construction of multi-purpose hall***

The construction of the multi-purpose hall at Omuhaturua Primary School and Hostel is proving to be quite a challenge for our builder, Riaan Potieger and his men. As previously reported, there are huge rocks below the sandy surface and this is hampering the completion of the foundations. So far, three jack hammers have succumbed to the conditions and they are currently being repaired after waiting for parts from South Africa. Riaan is also waiting for the Ministry of Works to move an electrical cable and once this is done, work will recommence with the completion date being moved to February 2020.



Some of the foundation blocks waiting for the erection of the steel uprights.

## ***The International School of Paris***

Our French partners, the International School of Paris visited Otjimanangombe in July, from 3 July until 12 July. Led by Cyrille Laval, the students camped in the clinic compound and undertook a number of tasks both at the clinic and Omuhaturua Primary School and Hostel. They were as follows:

Erecting a fence around land designated for a garden where the Clinic Community Health Committee will grow vegetables for TB patients.

Teaching in Omuhaturua Primary School.

Painting the inside of the hostel kitchen.

Digging foundations for a new girl's dormitory. ISP is funding this and the idea was for the students to dig the foundations. Unfortunately, as with the multi-purpose hall they hit rocks and had to abandon the idea. Instead they purchased paint and decorated the inside of one of the dormitories.

Volunteering in the clinic. Nurse Linear Tomas had some students with her each day and they observed the clinic in operation.

ISP wants to support small businesses in Otjimanangombe which are sustainable and help the local economy. They decided to fund a brick making project and a lady dressmaker.

They will return again next year, when it is hoped by then, that Riaan would have built the dormitory and the students will be able to paint it. The school are now fundraising to provide a second girl's dormitory. The plan in the long term is to have separate girl's hostel.

## ***A 'Namibian Journey'***

Outstanding, informative and emotive were some of the reactions to the Foundations illustrated event titled 'A Namibian Journey' held at the MICA on Friday 21 June.

The packed hall including guest of honour, Her Excellency, the High Commissioner for the Republic of Namibia, Ms Linda Scott heard in the first half from Roger Bullen who described the events that led up to Catherine's death at the old clinic at Oshivelo and the launching of the Foundation in her memory. There then followed an inspiring description of the work of the Foundation since 2004 and its projects up to the present time. He concluded by announcing that up to the end of its last financial year, the Foundation had raised £455,087 for its Namibian projects and thanked the local community for its support.

During the interval, a trio from the St Mary's Senior Girls School in Colchester sang to the audience and then presented a cheque for £3,020.13 to the Foundation's Linda Bullen MBE. The school had made the Foundation its charity for the year and the money raised will go towards purchasing electric cooking pots for the hostel kitchen at the Good Hope Primary School in the Omaheke region of Namibia for which we are very grateful.

In October 2018, well know Mersea photographers, Chrissie and Colin Westgate visited Namibia for a photographic tour with four friends, during which they visited the Catherine Bullen Primary Healthcare Clinic at Oshivelo built by the Namibian government and named after Catherine. One of Chrissie's main aims was to photograph the Himba tribe in northern Namibia and in the second half of the evening she

gave an enlightened talk on their way of life and customs followed by Namibian wildlife and scenery. Then Linda talked the audience through the photographs taken at Catherine's clinic in Oshivelo.

Chrissie finished the second half by quoting a tribute paid to Linda and Roger by Mr Pecka Semba, Director of Education, Arts and Culture, Omaheke Region, Namibia.

*'We at the Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture in the Omaheke Regional Council will forever be indebted to you for the outstanding contributions you have made and the positive change that has occurred through your selfless and great efforts, for the children and people initially thousands of kilometres from you and unknown to you. What pleases me the most is that you saw it fit to rise above a terrible personal tragedy and instead of blaming, finding fault and mourning forever, you displayed bravery and common sense of turning your tragedy into positive achievements that, as I said, has impacted on other unfortunate lives forever'.*

The evening concluded with a raffle and an auction of one of Chrissie's framed photos and an exquisite African themed cake by Teresa Jewitt. During the evening, photos had been on sale taken by Chrissie, Colin and their friends Kate and Geoff Jackson with all proceeds to the Foundation.

The event raised £2,944.50 for the Foundation's Namibian projects and the trustees would like to thank Holly and Tim at the MICA, Sarah Sherwood and all the Mersea businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes and those who came to make the evening so special.



The girls from St Mary's Senior Girls School presenting the cheque for £3,020.13 to the Foundation.

## ***St Mary's Senior School, Colchester***

As previously mentioned the school nominated the Foundation as their charity for the school year ending September 2019, and they have been so enthused with their fundraising, that they are going to carry on after this date. They are raising funds to purchase two industrial electric cooking pots for the Good Hope Primary School Hostel kitchen and a lot of their fundraising has had the theme of food. After the presentation of the cheque for £3,020.13 at the 'Namibian Journey' event, the Foundation transferred the necessary funds for the purchase of the pots. These should be in place when Roger and Linda visit the school later in the year.



Cooking pots similar to the ones ordered for the school.

## ***Foundation to provide a borehole for Eiseb Primary School and Hostel***

The need for a borehole was first highlighted to the Foundation Trustees by the school board during a visit in October 2016. Since then the situation has got worse and it has been exacerbated by the current drought caused by the lack of rainfall during the rainy season in the last few years. In May 2019, the Namibian Government announced a 'State of Emergency' in response to the drought.

Currently, Eiseb Primary School and Hostel receive their water from a single borehole which is shared with the community. This leads to conflict on a regular basis as the borehole does not have sufficient capacity to serve both the school and the community. There is also the problem with the stationary diesel engine which runs the pump which is prone to breakdowns resulting in neither party getting any water. When the school requires water it has to supply the diesel for the engine to pump. There are times that this is not available due to logistical problems.

The Foundation's project is to drill and equip a borehole for the sole use of the school and hostel to provide an uninterrupted supply of fresh water. This will also allow them to irrigate the school garden to provide vegetables for the hostel kitchen.

The borehole will be environmentally friendly with the water being pumped using solar power and the project will also take the pressure off the community borehole.

During their next visit, Roger and Linda will formalise the plans to drill the borehole with Komeho, their Namibian ngo partner and the contractor, and this should then commence in November 2019.

## ***Fund raising***

### **Shop Collections**

Since our last newsletter, we have carried out shop collections at Manningtree Co-op (£231.41), Felixstowe Co-op (£160 plus £26.50 sales), West Mersea Tesco (£309.22 including sales), Halstead Co-op (£175.60) and the Frinton Triangle (£160.30). Our grateful thanks to Pat, Nicky, Shirley, Sandra, Eilish and Gill for their help. A list of the remaining collections for this year is at the end of this newsletter and any help would be appreciated.

## **China Smashing**

Our china smashing stall has been in action at Clacton Car Show (£165), Hospital Radio Fun Day (£161), the Blackwater Show (£275.10) and the Five Parishes Show (£241.05). We were due to attend the Mersea Lions Summer and Transport Show but unfortunately it had to be cancelled because of 50 mph gale force winds. Many thanks to Jane, Clive, Anne, Peter, Kim, Paul and Nicky and Graham for their help. The remaining fetes and shows that we will be attending this year are listed at the end of this newsletter. Again any help with this would be gratefully appreciated.

## **Orthofest**

This is an Orthopaedic Department social event that is held every two years and hosted by one of the Orthopaedic Consultants at Colchester Hospital. This year it was Mr Philip Sloper's turn and the afternoon and evening was used as a fundraiser for the Foundation. We attended with our china smashing stall and ran the raffle. Together with takings from the bar the event raised £304. So a big thank you to Phil and those that supported the event.

## **Mersea Island Food, Drink and Leisure Festival**

This was held over the May Bank Holiday on Saturday 25 May and Sunday 26 May. We attended again with our homemade cake stall which was very successful, raising £718.10 over the two days. Many thanks to Nicky, Jane, Shirley and Sandra for their help.



Lots of cakes and customers

## ***Presentations***

The Foundation is pleased to give presentations to groups and clubs on its work during the day or evenings. So if you are looking for a speaker please contact us. This year we have so far given presentations to St Michaels Church Ladies Group in Leigh on Sea, Christchurch Ladies Group, Colchester, Trefoil Guild, Colchester, Mersea Free Church Ladies Group and the Clays Retirement Group in Bungay. At each of these presentations we have received a donation which is much appreciated.

## ***Individual Donations***

We have continued to receive individual donations, both large and small, which are very much appreciated. Each donation receives an acknowledgement of thanks from the Foundation and through this newsletter we would like to thank you again for your continued support. As well as making donations through the post, donations can be made on our website [www.namibia-aid.org.uk](http://www.namibia-aid.org.uk) through 'virginmoneygiving' or 'Paypal'.

## ***Regular giving***

Some of our donors have made a more formal arrangement by setting up a standing order to donate a regular monthly or yearly sum. If you would like to support us in this way, please email us at [rogerbullen409@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerbullen409@btinternet.com) and we will supply you with the Foundation's bank details so that you can set up a standing order.

## ***Forthcoming Events***

At the date of going to press, we have the following events planned.

If you would like to organise an event in support of the Foundation, please let us know. We will add events to our list on the website and in the next newsletter.

**The Catherine Bullen  
Foundation**

in partnership with



invite you to

**A FASHION SALE**  
*Prices from £3!!!*

At the Kiln Saddlery/Alaric Clothing  
Layer Road, Kingsford, Colchester, CO2 0HT

Open from 14.00 to 19.00  
on Wednesday 21 August 2019

All profits towards the Foundation's projects  
in rural Namibia, southern Africa

Raffle                                  Tea and coffee served

Enquiries: 07733 140748

*Saturday 24 August 2019*

Shop Collection – Woodbridge Co-op

*Sunday 25 August 2019*

Clacton Car Show – China smashing stall

*Sunday 1 September 2019*

Brightlingsea Scouts Classic Car Show – China smashing stall

*Saturday 7 September 2019*

Shop Collection – Stanway Co-op, Colchester

*Saturday 7 September 2019*

Seafood Supper – Company Shed

**The Catherine Bullen Foundation in  
partnership with the nationally renowned  
'Company Shed'**

**Invite you to**

***A Seafood Supper***  
**at The Company Shed, West Mersea**  
**on Saturday 7 Sept. 2019, 19.00 for 19.30**

**Tickets: £22.00 – a few tickets still available**

*Saturday 23 November 2019*

Christmas Market – St Peter's Brewery, Bungay, Suffolk – Home made Cake Stall

**If you could bake us a cake, it would be much appreciated.**

*Friday 6 December 2019*

Mersea Lights up – Home made cake stall

**If you could bake us a cake, it would be much appreciated.**

*Saturday 7 December 2019*

Shop Collection – West Mersea Co-op

*Saturday 21 December 2019*

Shop collection – Tesco, West Mersea

## ***Make a difference!***

The Catherine Bullen Foundation is working with local communities to help build and nurture a new life for the people in rural Namibia. Because we are a small charity, our overheads are small and are personally covered by the trustees, so that every single penny donated to us goes to the intended project, with spending strictly monitored by the UK trustees and their ngo partner in Namibia. All visits to Namibia are self-financed and no charitable funds are used for this purpose. Please help us make a difference by making a donation, either on line at [www.namibia-aid.org.uk](http://www.namibia-aid.org.uk) or sending it to the address below.

## ***How to contact us***

By Email: [info@namibia-aid.org.uk](mailto:info@namibia-aid.org.uk)

By Post: The Catherine Bullen Foundation  
Pear Tree Cottage  
15 Colchester Road  
West Mersea  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO5 8RS  
United Kingdom

By phone: 01206 383368 (inside UK) or 0044 1206 383368 (from outside UK)

Mobile: 07771 630928  
07733 140748



# Donation/Gift Aid Declaration

(The Catherine Bullen Foundation – Registered Charity No. 1110516)

## Details of donor

Title..... Forename(s).....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Signature.....

Date.....

I want the charity to treat

\*the enclosed donation of £..... as a Gift Aid donation

\*the donation(s) of £..... which I made on ..../..../..... as (a) Gift Aid donation(s)

*\*delete as appropriate*

**You must pay an amount of Income and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year.  
(currently 25p for each £1 you give).**