



# The Catherine Bullen Foundation

*Making a difference in rural Namibia*

## *NEWSLETTER*

No: 37

Spring 2019

### ***Construction starts on multi-purpose hall***

On 6 March, there was excitement amongst the hostel children as Riaan Potieger, our builder, arrived with his truck with a huge trailer in tow, carrying building equipment and tools.

In the early evening, as the hot temperatures of the day cooled slightly, the hostel children and school staff gathered for a short ground breaking ceremony where Linda dug the first spade full of earth for the foundations.



Linda in the centre with Riaan Potieger digging the first spade full of earth for the hall's foundations with the workers each side and in the background, the hostel children.

The multi-purpose hall at the Omuhaturua Primary School and Hostel, will provide amongst other things, a venue for school assemblies which are currently held outside, come rain or shine, a place for the hostel children to go in the evening after darkness to play indoor sport such as netball, volley ball and table tennis. It will also provide a venue for the local community of Otjimanangombe to hold meetings and to have an indoor covered market at the weekends putting money into the local economy.

The first phase of construction, the digging of foundation holes for the steel uprights has not proved easy. The sand hides the rock just below the surface, and in some cases Riaan's men had to light fires in the rocks to heat them up and then cool them with water to encourage the rock to split.



Excavating the foundation holes for the steel uprights, not made easy by stubborn rock.

By Easter, the foundations had been dug and we now eagerly await photos of the steelwork being erected. Completion is scheduled for end of August and Linda and Roger will attend the opening ceremony in the latter part of September. It is thanks to your support that we will be able to provide this much needed facility.

## ***Operation 'Chicken'***

Some time ago, the Foundation provided fifty chickens for the hostel which were housed in a custom built shed and run. Over the years, the flock had become depleted and last year the International School of Paris provided funds for restocking. However, due to import restrictions from South Africa because of a disease outbreak, they were not available until this year.

One afternoon, during their stay at Otjimanangombe, Roger was asked if he would go and pick up 120 baby chicks from a nearby farm. So accompanied by 'Follo' from the hostel, a teacher and the school secretary, they set off. This is Roger's account of the trip.

'We left Otjimanangombe at 14.30, travelling on a dusty gravel road in temperatures of around 35c. Our first destination was the clinic at Epukiro to pick up some supplies of paracetamol for the clinic at

Otjimanangombe. Then we drove on for about another hour until we reached our destination at Sanfeld, which is a government agricultural centre. When, we arrived there was no one to be seen, and after a couple of phone calls we were told to help ourselves to the 2 week old baby chickens housed in a garage. They were running about in a cage with a wire roof about 18 inches from the ground. So 'Follo' and I had to crawl into the cage and retrieve the chicks, one at a time. These were counted into a huge cardboard box and the total came to 113, not 120. We reported this and were told there should be 120 and to count them again. Easier said than done, we then had the idea of unloading them into the open back of a nearby pick up, take them out of the box, and count them back in again. Our revised count was 115 and that was accepted, thank goodness.



'Follo' extricating the chicks

Count number two

On the way back, we were asked to deliver 20 chicks to a farm, which I recognised as being where I had an unfortunate encounter with a goat, many years ago. It was then back to Otjimanangombe, stopping off at Epukiro for my passengers to stock up with drinks and crisps. We finally arrived back at the hostel at 18.25 to be greeted by the excited hostel children. We unloaded the chickens into their shed which by this time were a bit dazed, but they soon picked up.'



Finally at home, with headmaster, Steve Kavari.

## ***Otjimanangombe Primary Healthcare Clinic***

Although the extended clinic is successful and the patient numbers are increasing, there are still maintenance issues that need resolving and this is holding up the inauguration. The Regional Director for the Ministry of Health, his team and the contractor are working on this and it is hope to have the inauguration in late September which will be attended by Linda and Roger.

Recently there have been two new members of staff arrive at the clinic. Firstly, registered nurse, Linea Tomas who is now the sister in charge and secondly 'Veri' who as taken over the role of TB Field Promoter employed by COHENA.



SEN 'Freida' Kasukoo Mekukuje, Linda, and Sister Linea Tomas 'Veri' Veritjimue Mbaukua – TB Field Promoter

In the next few months the Clinic Community Health Committee will be clearing a piece of land to provide a garden to grow vegetables for the TB patients. Funding for this is being provided by the Foundation's partners, the International School of Paris.

## ***The Catherine Bullen Primary Healthcare Clinic***

In the latter part of March, Linda and Roger returned to Oshivelo and the clinic named after Catherine and spent four weeks there. This clinic is busy as ever, with 90 to 120 patients per day and is nurse led with no doctors. With two nurses having left for further training and one on maternity leave, Linda's help was much appreciated. At least half the patients each day are HIV positive and come to the clinic for their medication. While they were there Linda and Roger witnessed the effects of the drought with every piece of grassland being cut to provide fodder for the animals, even road side verges were being stripped. Farmers were in some cases having to resort to feeding cardboard to their cattle. (see article on page 5). There is also a human price to pay and they saw a number of mal-nourished children at the clinic and with the prospect of rain diminishing the situation can only get worse.

# ***The Namibian Government declares a 'State of Emergency' due to the drought***



## **STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

**"Following consultations with Cabinet and the wider Government system, I declare under Article 26 of the Namibian Constitution that a State of Emergency exists on account of the natural disaster of drought in all regions of the Republic of Namibia.**

Offices, Ministries and Agencies and all other stakeholders will be mobilized to ensure that the necessary assistance is rolled out to affected communities.

During this period, Government shall endeavor at all times to protect Namibians and their livestock from the drought."

H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob  
President of the Republic of Namibia

On Monday 7 May, the Namibian government declared a state of emergency due to the drought which has been caused by the lack of rain during the rainy season for the last three years. The situation is especially dire in the north.

The country used to receive heavy rains for six months during the rainy season, but for the past three years, the rains have been very unreliable. This year, the little rain that was, came too late and too little which has resulted in the crops failing and not enough grass in the veld for the livestock making the livestock very vulnerable. There is a fear by the farmers that the drought will lead to the total annihilation of their stock. In the last six months, 63,172 animals have died due to the drought, including 30,876 cattle, 24,598 goats and 8,238 sheep.

*Extract from the 'New Era' dated 10 May 2019*

WINDHOEK - Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the Deputy PM Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah yesterday implored regional governors not to let anyone die of hunger as a result of the drought that was declared a state of emergency by President Hage Geingob on Monday 7 May.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Nandi-Ndaitwah made this call during a meeting with regional governors in Windhoek that discussed the details on how to address the severe drought threatening the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Namibians.

Namibia has been experiencing a persistently stubborn drought for the past six years, which has killed an unspecified number of livestock across the country, estimated to be worth millions of dollars. The Prime Minister told governors that it was clear that the “livelihoods of the majority of Namibians, especially those that depend on agricultural activities is threatened.”

“Most regions are experiencing water shortages, as most of the rain-fed catchments are either dry or have little water, livestock are dying and take note I am not picking up this from the media, I have seen it with my own eyes while visiting affected areas,” she said.

Kuugongelwa-Amadhila this week announced a N\$573 million (£32,191,011) drought package aimed at helping farmers and families affected by the drought.

Those affected would receive food assistance; water tanks and livestock marketing incentives. Farmers will also be provided with a transport subsidy to and from grazing areas, and transport for fodder to the drought affected farmers especially in communal areas.

Also, farmers will be receiving support for lease of grazing for the drought affected and subsidy for crop farmers. Likewise, farmers will receive lick supplements for a core herd of 25 cattle and one bull per farmer and fodder subsidy for a core herd of 25 cattle and one bull per farmer.

She said for human support, government envisage to provide per household affected the following items per month: one bag of 12.5kg of maize meal, four tins of 400 grams of fish, and one bottle of 750ml of cooking oil.

For farmers in rural areas that depends on subsistence farming and who are affected by drought, the Prime Minister told governors that for a specific household to benefit, the monthly household income must not exceed N\$2,600 (£146) during the period of the programme.

*Extract from the ‘The Namibian’ dated 10 May 2019*

THE dams supplying Windhoek and the central areas of Namibia held less than a fifth of their capacity after a disappointing rainy season that prompted the government to declare a state of emergency due to drought this week.

The Namibia Water Corporation reported in its latest update on the state of the country's dams this week that the three surface reservoirs storing water for the central areas of the country are now 19,3% full – compared to a level of 35,8% a year ago, and a level of about 12% in early May 2016, when Namibia was also facing drought after a failed rainy season.

The situation in the east of Namibia is more dire, with the dams supplying Gobabis virtually empty, at a combined level of only 2% of their storage capacity. A year ago, the dams in the Gobabis area held 7,4% of their combined capacity, while those dams' combined levels stood at about 26% in May 2016.

The dams in southern Namibia are now filled to about 37,3% of capacity, with the level of the country's largest dam currently used for irrigation, the Hardap Dam near Mariental, at only 22,4% (65,9 million cubic metres) of its full storage capacity of 294,5 million cubic metres of water.

A year ago, the dams in southern Namibia were 55% full. In May 2016, those dams had a combined level of about 26% of their capacity.

In northern Namibia, the Olushandja Dam was only 9.5% full at the start of this week.

The Swakoppoort, Von Bach and Omatako dams, from which Windhoek and the central areas of the country draw water, have a combined storage capacity of 154,5 million cubic metres. The three dams currently hold 29,8 million cubic metres of water.

## ***London Marathon – 28 April 2019***

In what were ideal conditions on the day, our London marathon runner, Alice Parker completed the course in 4 hrs, 30 mins, and 4 secs. This resulted in her raising over £1,700 for the Foundation's projects in Namibia for which we are very grateful. Well done Alice and everyone who sponsored her!



Alice with Linda at the finish of the London Marathon

## ***Fund raising***

### **Shop Collections**

Our first shop collection of 2019 was at West Mersea Co-op on Saturday 4 May which raised £211.72 plus £30.45 from the sale of San jewellery. Our grateful thanks to Nicky, Shirley and Sandra for their help. The East of England Co-op has confirmed all our dates for this year and also West Mersea Tesco's have given us two slots. A full list appears at the end of this newsletter. Any help with these would be gratefully appreciated.

### **China Smashing**

We have compiled a full list of fetes and shows that we will be attending this year at the end of this newsletter. Again any help with this would be gratefully appreciated. Following on from our appeal in our last newsletter, our china stocks are being replenished. However, we could always do with more especially plates. If we are not in, just leave it by the back door.

### **It was hot stuff at the Indian Lunch**

The Foundation held its ever popular annual charity lunch at Titash Indian Restaurant in West Mersea on Sunday 27 January and the restaurant was packed with friends, family and supporters and a total of £1,376 was raised.

After an excellent meal provided by Dil and his staff, the diners were updated by Trustee Roger Bullen on the Foundation's current project which as mentioned previously is to build a multi-purpose hall at the Omuhaturua Primary School Hostel at Otjimanangombe



Some of the guests at the Indian lunch

### ***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.

### ***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. We were unsuccessful in getting a stall at the Tendring Show, however we will now be doing a shop collection at West Mersea Tesco on that date (13 July). Your help at any of these events would be gratefully appreciated.

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.

*Sunday 19 May 2019*

Clacton Car Show – China smashing stall



**Do you enjoy  
baking  
homemade cakes**



**Then why not bake a  
cake for the children  
of Namibia**

to be sold by

**The Catherine Bullen Foundation**

on it's

**Cake stall**

at the

**The Mersea Food, Drink and Leisure Festival**

on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May 2019

All stall profits towards the Foundation's projects  
in rural Namibia.

If you can bake and donate a cake, please ring  
on 01206 383368 or 07733 140748 – Many thanks

*Saturday 25/Sunday 26 May 2019*

Mersea Island Food, Drink and Leisure Festival – Homemade Cake Stall

*Monday 27 May 2019*

Hospital Radio Fund Day, Lower Castle Park, Colchester – China smashing stall

*Saturday 1 June 2019*

Shop Collection – Manningtree Co-op

Sea Shanties & fish and chip supper, West Mersea Church Hall gardens. Indoors if wet. Tickets £15 each from No 4, Yorick Rd.

Organised by the West Mersea church with proceeds going to the Foundation.

*Tuesday 4 June 2019*

Presentation to the Ladies Group at Christchurch Church, Colchester at 14.30

*Friday 14 June 2019*

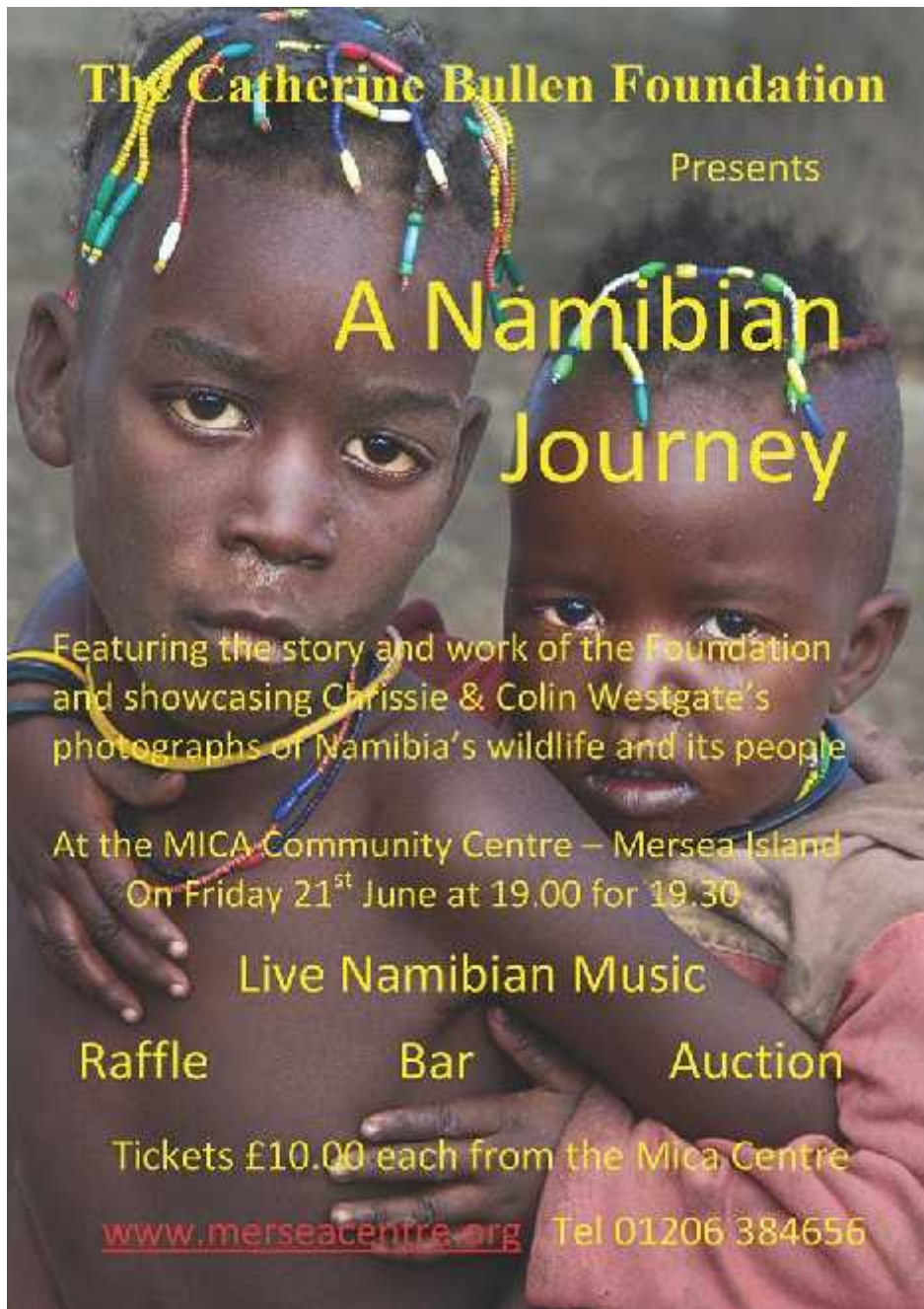
Presentation to the Trefoil Club, St Barnabas Church, Colchester at 14.15

*Saturday 15 June 2019*

Shop Collection – Felixstowe Co-op

*Tuesday 18 June 2019*

Presentation to the Ladies Group, Mersea Free Church at 14.30



**The Catherine Bullen Foundation**  
Presents  
**A Namibian Journey**

Featuring the story and work of the Foundation and showcasing Chrissie & Colin Westgate's photographs of Namibia's wildlife and its people

At the MICA Community Centre – Mersea Island  
On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 19.00 for 19.30

**Live Namibian Music**

**Raffle      Bar      Auction**

Tickets £10.00 each from the Mica Centre

[www.merseacentre.org](http://www.merseacentre.org) Tel 01206 384656

**Friday 21 June 2019**

'A Namibian Journey', featuring the work of the Catherine Bullen Foundation and the photographs of Chrissie and Colin Westgate. Namibian music performed by Simon Amutjiraonee. There will also be

singing from the girls of St Mary's Senior School. Tickets £10 each from the MICA and the Foundation (Call 01206 383368). Seating will be around tables, so quite informal.

*Sunday 23 June 2019*

Blackwater Show – China smashing

*Saturday 13 July 2019*

Shop Collection – West Mersea Tesco

*Thursday 25 July 2019*

Presentation to the Trefoil Club, Lawford at 19.30

*Saturday 27 July 2019*

Shop Collection – Halstead Co-op

*Saturday 3 August 2019*

Shop Collection – Frinton Triangle

*Sunday 4 August 2019*

Five Parishes Show, Fingrinhoe Ranges – China smashing stall

*Saturday 10 August 2019*

Mersea Lions Summer and Transport Show, Waldegraves – China smashing stall

*Saturday 17 August 2019*

Shop Collection – Brightlingsea

*Saturday 24 August 2019*

Shop Collection – Woodbridge Co-op

*Sunday 25 August 2019*

Clacton Car Show – China smashing stall

*Saturday 7 September 2019*

Shop Collection – Stanway Co-op, Colchester

**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**

*Sunday 8 September 2019*

Brightlingsea Scouts Classic Car Show – China smashing stall

*Saturday 23 November 2019*

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

*Friday 6 December 2019*

Mersea Lights up – Home made cake stall

*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).**