



The Catherine Bullen Foundation

Making a difference in rural Namibia

NEWSLETTER

No: 56

Winter 2025

Emergency at Otjimanangombe Village

At the end of November, the engine that drives the pump for the community borehole failed after fifteen years use which left the village without a water supply. The Foundation was contacted to see if we could be of any help with the purchase of a new engine. It was agreed that whatever the community raised, we would fund the balance which we did, and the new engine was installed on the 10 December.



The community held a meeting to discuss the situation



The new engine ready to install

Our next trip scuppered

Usually at this time of year, this newsletter would feature our second visit of the year to Namibia and accompanying photos. Unfortunately, this was not to be as at the end of last month, Roger had to have

revision operation on his left artificial hip due to the deterioration of the joint. This was initially scheduled for the end of September but was cancelled due to logistical problems.

This also means that we will be unable to undertake our usual trip in mid-February, and as we fundraise during the summer our next visit will be in September 2026. However, this absence will does not affect the work of the Foundation, as thanks to modern communications we are in daily contact with our project recipients and our Namibian ngo partner, Komeho Namibian Development Agency.

Ongombe soup kitchen, Eiseb

In our Summer Newsletter we featured the newly set up soup kitchen which the Foundation is supporting. Community volunteers are catering for children from 6 months to 6 years and pregnant women from the vulnerable San community, fighting poverty and malnutrition and they currently have around 150 recipients on their books and they are monitoring their progress.

The Foundation supplied a fridge, cooking pots, cups and plates and recently sent funds for the construction of a shelter for the cooking pots and providing a water supply to the kitchen.



Soup kitchen cooking pots provided by the Foundation.



Some of the lucky recipients of the soup kichen

Omuhaturua Primary School and Hostel, Otjimanangombe

The school choir recently took part in the national finals of a choir competition in Windhoek and took the first place in the Primary School category. They also got an award as the best choir with well organised and well trained members. Well done to Ester and Edward for their leadership.



The choir at a previous competition

Due to the increased intake of children to the school, the Government are funding the construction of additional classrooms and construction is well under way. See below



Donkerbos Primary School and Hostel

In our Spring newsletter we reported that MTC, a major mobile phone and network provider had agreed to build classrooms and an administration block. We were told that our involvement with the school was one of the factors that MTC choose the school. We are pleased to tell you that the building work is complete and the facilities were opened on 24 September



One of the new classrooms.



The opening ceremony

Eiseb Primary School and Hostel

The Foundation has funded the purchase of 166 school uniforms for the San children whose parents cannot afford them.



Some of the uniform items provided by the Foundation

The school and the hostel once again have problems with the water supply. In our Summer newsletter we reported that the original borehole was rehabilitated and is now fully functional, which means that the garden irrigation system that the Foundation provided can now be installed. Unfortunately, this did not happen as the borehole failed again leaving the school and hostel without water for showers and toilets. This has resulted in the children going into the bush to defecate which is unhygienic and dangerous. The Foundation is actively pursuing a solution with the Regional Education Ministry.

Fundraising

Berlin Marathon 2026

We are pleased to announce that Mr Satya Annapureddy, an orthopaedic surgeon at Colchester General Hospital will be running the Berlin marathon in September next year to raise funds for the Foundation. If you would like to sponsor Satya please go to his Justgiving page. Satya had previously taken part in the Great North Run for the Foundation.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to The Catherine Bullen Foundation, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to his JustGiving page by hitting 'Ctrl' and clicking here

https://www.justgiving.com/page/satyanarayana-annapureddy-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM

JustGiving sends your donation straight to The Catherine Bullen Foundation and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Calendars

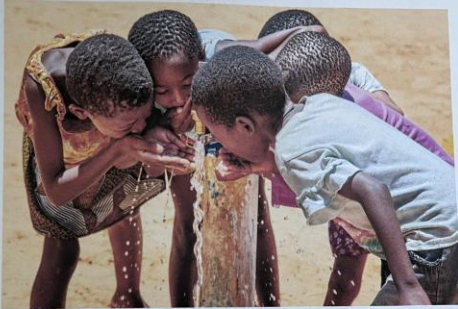
The Foundation's 2026 calendar featuring Namibian wildlife is now available costing £12.50 plus packaging and postage.



Carols in the Pub

An enjoyable evening was held at the Dog and Pheasant at East Mersea when customers sang Christmas carols and raised £150 for the Foundation's projects in Namibia. Our grateful thanks to Peter and Jean for organising this again and the Dog and Pheasant for hosting it

Carols in the Pub



The East Mersea 'boys' and the ladies of the Parish Choir invite you to join them singing carols at the Dog and Pheasant, East Mersea on Tuesday December 9th at 19.30

A collection will be made in aid of the Catherine Bullen Foundation to support its work in Namibia

Shop Collections

Since our last newsletter, the Foundation carried out the following shop collections:

Morrisons at Clacton Town
Woodbridge Co-op
Morrisons at Clacton Town
West Mersea Co-op

Total collected: £798

A big thank you to Eilish, Pat, Dagbar, Shirley, Sandra, Sue and Martin.

Forthcoming Events

We have the following events scheduled for the remainder of the year which are confirmed. Next year's shop collections are yet to be confirmed. We welcome volunteers to help at these events, so if you can be of assistance, please get in touch.

Forthcoming Events - 2025

Saturday 20 December
West Mersea Tesco

Forthcoming Events – 2026 (to be confirmed)

Saturday 4 April
Morrisons Maldon

Saturday 2 May
West Mersea Co-op

Saturday 23 May
Morrisons Clacton – out of town

Monday 25 May
Hospital Fete, Castle Park – Sales and Publicity stall

Saturday 13 June
Morrisons Clacton Town

Saturday 27 June/Sunday 28 June (confirmed)
Colchester Food and Drink Festival, Castle Park – Homemade cakes stall

Saturday 25 July
Manningtree Co-op Supermarket

Sunday 2 August
Five Parishes Show – Sales and publicity stall

Saturday 15 August
Lions Summer Fete and Car show - Sales and Publicity stall

Saturday 29 August
Woodbridge Co-op Supermarket

Saturday 5 December
West Mersea Lights up – Homemade cake stall

Saturday 12 December
West Mersea Co-op Supermarket.

Saturday 19 December
West Mersea Tesco

Donations

It would be very much appreciated, if you feel you could support us with a donation for our projects in Namibia. As we are a UK charity working overseas, we are not eligible for any British Government grants.

It can be made online on our website www.namibia-aid.org.uk through 'justgiving' or 'Paypal'.

By sending a cheque made out to the Foundation to 15 Colchester Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8RS

Or you can donate by bank transfer to:
Account Name: The Catherine Bullen Foundation
Sort Code: 20-22-67
Account No: 53717690

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. For which we are extremely grateful. If you would like to support us in this way, please use the above banking details so that you can set it up.

Presentations

The Foundation is pleased to give presentations to groups and clubs on its work during the day or evenings.

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 online at www.namibia-aid.org.uk or sending it to the address on the next page.

How to contact us

By Email: info@namibia-aid.org.uk

By Post: The Catherine Bullen Foundation
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Mobile: 07771 630928 and 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).**



*The Catherine Bullen Foundation would like to
thank you for your support and
we wish you a happy Christmas and a
prosperous and peaceful New Year*