



The Catherine Bullen Foundation

Making a difference in rural Namibia

NEWSLETTER

No: 39

Winter 2019

Its all systems go 'again' on the multi-purpose hall

We reported in the last newsletter, that due to the rocks underneath the surface, the builder's three jack hammers had succumbed to the conditions. We are pleased to report that these are now repaired. There was also the problem of an electrical cable which needed moving which was the responsibility of the Ministry of Works. They had been slow to react, but with a bit cajoling by us and the Principal, Mr Steve Kavari the situation was resolved. Our builder, Riaan returned to the site at the beginning of November and it is planned to have all the foundations completed before the Christmas break with completion scheduled to take place in March next year. However, the official opening will not take place until October 2020 when the school celebrates its 20th anniversary and the hall will provide the centrepiece of these celebrations and should prove to be a huge occasion.



The foundations of the multi-purpose hall in October 2019 prior to work recommencing.

Good Hope Primary School

Roger and Linda were in Namibia from mid-September to mid-November and while they were in Otjimanangombe in the Omaheke region, they were able to visit Good Hope Primary School in the village of Okovimburu. Here they were able to handover two large industrial electrical cooking pots for the hostel kitchen. This has doubled the cooking capacity and allows the children to eat in one sitting. The pots were funded by St Mary's Senior School for Girls in Colchester who continue to raise money for the Foundation. Well done girls.



The handing over of the pots at Good Hope Primary School.
Kneeling beside the pot is Mr Gerson Murangi (acting head).

The provision of a borehole for Eiseb Primary School and Hostel is proving to be a bit of a challenge.

In our last newsletter we described the Foundation's next 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. It will also supply the State medical clinic in the village with water.

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

Prior to returning to Namibia last September, Roger and Linda obtained a quote from a drilling contractor who had successfully provided a borehole for Mokutu Primary School in the Omaheke. During their stay at Otjimanangombe, they took the contractor and his water diviner to Eiseb Primary School. Using a forked twig, the Diviner walked around the school grounds and at one particular location the twig moved indicating water beneath the ground. Roger, Linda and the school staff found this fascinating and all had a try with varying success.



The water diviner with his twig in the vertical position indicating that there is water beneath the surface.

At this point, it was naively thought 'job done' and drilling could start as soon as the rig became available. However, events then took a strange twist. Komeho, our Namibian ngo partner wanted a borehole drilled at their Vocational Training establishment at Vasdraii near Gobabis to provide water for irrigating a large horticultural garden. They had the same contractor as the Foundation and his water diviner identified a spot to drill. The borehole was drilled and was proved to be dry, which meant that although no water was forthcoming, Komeho had to pay for the drilling and this apparently is standard practice throughout the industry. Komeho also employed a hydrologist who identified another location and a different contractor drilled there. Disappointingly water was found but the flow was not sufficient for irrigating a large area.

The Foundation has since learned that dry boreholes are a common by product of the drilling process and hitting water first time cannot be guaranteed. So it has been a steep learning curve, with the knowledge that a dry borehole could cost the Foundation a large amount of donated money. It was decided to hold fire and consult further with those in the industry and local government and also commission a recommended professional hydrologist to survey the area in order to lessen the odds. So watch this space!

Funding for the borehole is almost complete and has come from various sources including the Foundation's own fundraising activities, a generous donation from a regular supporter and a grant from another Foundation. We also received a large donation from a tourist group of friends who visited Namibia last year and tragically lost one of their party due to a heart attack. They wanted to do something in Namibia in memory of 'JF', and they were put in touch with us by ATI, theirs and our travel agent in Namibia. The result being the donation towards the borehole, which when completed will feature a plaque in memory of their friend.

Otjimanangombe Primary Healthcare Clinic

Linda and Roger spent just under a month volunteering at the clinic which was welcomed by the Registered nurse Sister Linea Tomas who had been working alone, since her colleague SEN Frieda was badly injured in a car accident last June, but we are pleased to report that she has recently returned to

work. Patient numbers have continued to increase at the clinic which was enlarged by the Global Fund in 2017.

There is a very active Community Health Committee led by Veritjimue Mujoro who is the COHENA Field promoter based at the clinic. This charity which fights TB in rural areas sponsored a competition between all the clinics in the Omaheke region featuring the Health Committees and Otjimanagombe came fourth out of thirteen.



The Clinic's Community Health Committee. Veritjimue is standing third in from the right.

Although extended in 2017, there is still some remedial work to be completed and equipment to be supplied before inauguration can take place. The Foundation continues to monitor the situation and lobbies the Ministry Of Health on a regular basis. But as a in the UK, money is short and budgets have been cut.



While Linda is busy treating patients, Roger issues voucher receipts for the payment of a fee of N\$4 (25p) per patient.

The Catherine Bullen Primary Healthcare Clinic, Oshivelo

In mid October, Linda and Roger left Otjimanangombe and travelled north to Oshivelo. During their journey they saw how parched the land was and the poor condition of the livestock due to the on going drought and they only could hope that sufficient rains will come soon.

The clinic is as busy as ever with 90 to 130 patients each day. It is currently three nurses down, so Linda was again welcomed with open arms to help with the workload.

Maintenance is a big issue due to reduced budgets and none has taken place in the past two years resulting in nine yard and eighteen security lights not working and an increasing number of toilets needing repair. It was obvious that this situation could not carry on and after consulting the Health Authorities, the Foundation was given permission to carry out the repairs. So a visit was made to the nearby town of Tsumeb and accompanied by the maintenance man from the hospital, light bulbs and plumbing items were purchased. Within days, an electrician visited and all the lights were repaired, and before Linda and Roger left, the plumber came and mended the toilets and dealt with other plumbing issues such as three hot water geysers that were not working.



Top left: Nurses accommodation and casualty now illuminated and made safe for the nurse on call to walk over at night.

Top right: 'Murphy' the plumber repairing the delivery room toilet.

Bottom left: Linda monitoring a patient's blood pressure, taking their temperature and recording their weight.

Bottom right: Patients waiting to see Linda.





The staff of the Catherine Bullen Primary Healthcare Clinic. As well as those employed by the Ministry of Health, there are two charities operating from the clinic. 'Dreams' which deals with teenage girls and 'Project Hope' which is involved with HIV/Aids patients.

Knitted items

The ladies of Mersea Island, Colchester and the local community continue to knit blankets hats and jumpers for the Foundation. On their recent visit, Linda and Roger were able to take two suitcases full of knitted items, thanks to the generous Ethiopian Airlines luggage allowance which joined a further two suitcases and four plastic bags full in store in Oshivelo. On 9 November, these were taken to the 'Respect' kindergarten in Tsumeb which is situated close to Kuvukiland, a large informal settlement of tin shacks. Those in need were identified and invited to come and take two items each which resulted in everything being distributed. Then the suitcases were sold and the money donated to the kindergarten which was the brainchild of Derek Sherratt and initially financed by the Chesterfield/Tsumeb Twinning Association, it is now self supporting.



Left: Knitted items laid out prior to distribution.

Right: Those who were identified as needy were invited to take two items each.

Gobabis Hospital Premature Baby Unit

Prior to leaving for Oshivelo, Linda and Roger visited the Premature Baby Unit and were able to donate cot blankets, small hats and cardigans.



Left: Donated items. Right a San mother with her baby which weighed 1.4 kgs at birth

And there s more!

Our knitters have been so busy, that Linda and Roger ended up accumulating twenty-eight dustbin bags of items in their spare bedroom. Luckily, the Namibian High Commission in London came to the rescue as one of their staff was returning to Namibia and he had spare space in his container. So thanks to Erastus Hailwa and to Ian Gwyther for transporting the sacks to London. The container is currently on the high seas and will dock at Walvis Bay from where it will be delivered to Windhoek. Our sacks will be taken to our ngo's office (Komeho) from where Linda and Roger will pick them up on their next visit.



Sacks of knitted items awaiting transportation to London

Fund raising

Shop Collections

Since our last newsletter, we have carried out shop collections at Brightlingsea Co-op (£188.30), Woodbridge Co-op (£266.16), Stanway Co-op (£122.22) and West Mersea Co-op (£171.43). Our grateful thanks to Jane, Nicky, Shirley, Sandra, and Eilish for their help. A list of collections for the coming 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 (£117.20) and the Brightlingsea Scouts Car Show (£164.30). Many thanks to Jane, Clive, Anne, Peter, Kim, and Paul for their help. A list of fetes and shows that we intend to attend next year are listed at the end of this newsletter. Again any help with this would be gratefully appreciated.

Alaric Fashion Sale



This event raised £120 for the Foundation's projects. Many thanks to Lisa and her team.

Seafood Supper

On Saturday 7 September, the Foundation held its ever popular Seafood Supper at the Company Shed. A packed venue was treated to some delicious seafood prepared by 'Caz' Haward and her staff. The event raised £703 for the Foundation projects. A big thank you to Caz and her staff.



A good time was had by all

Christmas Market – St Peter’s Brewery, near Bungay, Suffolk

Roger and Linda landed back in the UK on 19 November, and it was straight into fund raising mode when they attended this event on 23 November. Linda mustered her cake making friends who came up trumps with a lovely selection of homemade cakes. We were also able to sell the San jewellery having brought back new supplies from Namibia. We raised £191.80, so a big thank you to our cake makers, and to Jill the organiser and her staff for making us so welcome.



The Foundation’s stall at the Christmas Market at St Peter’s Brewery.

At the bottom of the picture is the unique San jewellery, which make lovely presents. As far as we are aware, these are not available anywhere else in the country. So if you are interested in purchasing an item, please get in touch.

Mersea Lights Up – Friday 6 December

As at St Peter’s Brewery, we had our homemade cake stall plus the San Jewellery and the Foundation’s 2020 Calendar. The total raised was £180. Another big thank you to our cake makers who supplied us with lovely cakes to both events within a fortnight.

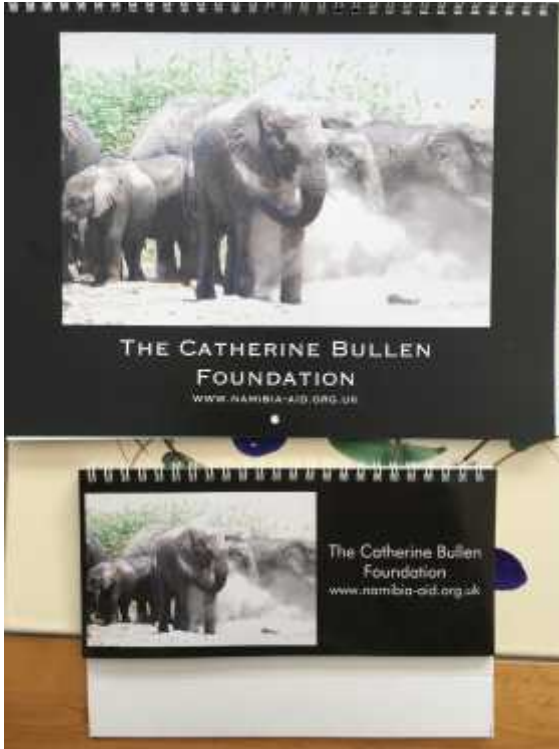


Our stall at the Mersea lights up

Money not message in a Bottle

Under the guidance of David and Gillian Buck, the congregations of St Francis Church in Welwyn Garden City and St Michael's Church in Leigh on Sea have been collecting 5p's and filled a large whisky bottle, the contents of which recently arrived at Pear Tree Cottage. Here it was duly counted and bagged and came to a total of £307.90. A fantastic result, so a big thank you to David and Gillian and all those involved.

Foundation's 2020 Calendar now available



The Foundation's 2020 calendar features the wildlife of Namibia.

Wall Calendar: £10 plus postage

Desk Calendar: £5 plus postage

Order by emailing:

rogerbullen409@btinternet.com

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 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 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.

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 December 19th at 19.30

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

Saturday 21 December 2019

Shop Collection – West Mersea Tesco

Thursday 9 January 2020

Presentation to the Halstead, Rotary Club, Colne Valley Golf Club

Tuesday 21 January 2020

Presentation to Activ8 Club, Colchester

Sunday 2 February 2020

Indian Lunch at Titash, West Mersea at 12.00 noon. Tickets £22. **Sold out – waiting list in operation**

Saturday 2 May 2020

Shop collection – West Mersea Co-op

Sunday 17 May 2020

Clacton Car Show – China smashing (to be confirmed)

Saturday 23/Sunday 24 May 2020

Mersea Food, Drink and Leisure Festival – Homemade Cake stall

Monday 25 May 2020

Hospital Radio Fun Day, Lower Castle Park – China smashing (to be confirmed)

Saturday 6 June 2020

Shop collection – Halstead Co-op

Saturday 13 June 2020

Shop collection – Felixstowe Co-op

Sunday 21 June 2020

Blackwater Show – China smashing

Saturday 11 July 2020

Tendring Show – China smashing (to be confirmed)

Saturday 25 July 2020

Shop Collection - Manningtree Co-op

Sunday 2 August 2020

Five Parishes Show – China smashing (to be confirmed)

Saturday 8 August 2020

Mersea Lions Summer Show – China Smashing

Saturday 15 August 2020

Shop Collection – Brightlingsea Co-op

Saturday 22 August 2020

Shop collection – Frinton Triangle (to be confirmed)

Sunday 30 August 2020

Clacton Car Show – China smashing (to be confirmed)

Saturday 5 September 2020

Shop collection – Stanway Co-op

Sunday 6 September 2020

Brightlingsea Scout Car Show – China smashing (to be confirmed)

Seafood Supper, Company Shed, West Mersea – date to be advised.

Saturday 5 December 2020

Shop collection – West Mersea Co-op

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 or sending it to the address on page 13.

How to contact us

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

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Mobile: 07771 630928
07733 140748



Christmas Donkeys at Otjimanangombe

*The Catherine Bullen Foundation
wishes you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year*

Many thanks for your support in the past year

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).**