

CARING AND SHARING EUCHARISTS 2014:

Thursday 22nd May 7.30 pm at St. Mary the Virgin, Ringmer

Speaker: Mrs Pauline Allan on behalf of "Let the Children live!", a charity supporting Street Educators, Medellin, Columbia

Saturday 4th October 11 am St. Mark's, Little Common

Speakers Malcolm and Ann Bates – Busoga Trust and Steve Willis Memorial Fund (boreholes in Uganda)

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CARING AND SHARING (EAST SUSSEX) NEWSLETTER 2014

'Live more simply that others may simply live'



A leap of faith?

Many of our projects understand this situation so well! At times of great economic uncertainty, they continue to work hard to support the needy.

This newsletter is free.
Please take it home and
read about our projects.

www.caringandsharingeastsussex.org.uk

What is Caring and Sharing?

The Caring and Sharing scheme was started in 1982 by the former Bishop of Lewes, Peter Ball. It was based on two ideas: one that by making a small sacrifice members can turn away from the material values of the western world; the other that they can share their comparative wealth by sending the savings from this small sacrifice to projects in poorer countries which help to provide the basic needs of life. The sacrifice is not expected to be a major one. It is in its regularity that it grows in value. A digestive biscuit costs only a few pence, but 5p a day amounts to more than £18 a year, and such sums given regularly help us to send about £100,000 a year to our projects.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Last October, a national newspaper ran an article with the headline "City where girls' virginity is sold to the highest bidder" and the subheading revealed it to be Medellin, Colombia in South America. Street gangs in the slums (comunas) recruit and auction 10 to 15 year old girls to drug lords and foreign tourists. In exchange, the girls are offered brand-name goods, trips to luxury restaurants and drugs. The families of such girls have the choice of compliance with financial rewards or being forced from their homes or murdered. The gangs organise crime, extort money from residents, and rule by fear. The state seems powerless to intervene. This is where Casa Walsingham is based, housing the charity "Let the Children live" which many of you support through Caring and Sharing. The Street Educators make contact with young people in the comunas, offering food, clean clothes, activities and help with drug addiction. We will hear more details of this 'safe haven' when Pauline Allan visits Ringmer for our Eucharist on Thursday 22nd May at 7.30 pm.

Last year the Committee gave thanks and bade farewell to our Projects Officer, Elizabeth Gorsuch who had worked tirelessly for the Scheme. We were equally blessed to have welcomed Julia Maling to succeed her. Moreover we enlisted Christine Reade into our ranks, to be responsible for individuals and groups outside East Sussex who support the work. To all the Committee and to you, our faithful Carers and Sharers, I extend my gratitude. We can make a difference in Medellin and elsewhere in our troubled and needy world.

Hugh Moseley

Concert: Bromley Youth Orchestra:

Saturday 10th May 7.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Rye.

In aid of Chernobyl Children Rye.

Tickets £10. Students £5. Tel: 01797 214089

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please note

You will see that we are showing totals sent to projects in a different way this year. Our financial year is 1 June - 31 May each year and these figures are those examined and submitted to the Charity Commission for each accounting period.

Totals sent to projects

Page	Project	2012/13 £	2011/12 £
4	Steve Willis Memorial Fund (Busoga)	£7040.00	£5600
5	Clergy Pensions, Rwanda	£5125.00	£6600
6	School for the Deaf, Tanzania	£3400.00	£5200
7	Bolgatanga, Ghana	£825.00	£3100
8	Fistula Hospital, Ethiopia	£7050.00	£5600
9	My Father's House, Olinda, Brazil	£5140.00	£5100
10	Casa Guatemala orphanage and village	£2650.00	£4100
11	Children's nurseries, Lima, Peru	£7370.00	£9100
12	Street Educators, Medellin, Colombia	£11440.00	£29000
13	Feeding Programme, Honduras	£9050.00	£5800
14	Little Flower Leprosy Centre, Raxaul, India	£6000.00	£8900
15	Social Service Institute, CNI, Nagpur, India	£1916.76	£5000
16	Chernobyl Children Rye	£10500.00	£8300
17	Ebenezer Day Care Centre, Chennai, India	£2825.00	£4300
18	Fundatia New Life, Romania	£12740.00	£11300
TOTALS		£93071.76	£117000

The figure for this year included legacies of £35000

EUROPEAN PROJECT

FUNDATIA NEW LIFE, ROMANIA

We had a very busy time at Christmas. Lots of visitors, lots of people coming to offer support to our boys! It is 10 years since the opening of the house and slowly people are changing! Now, they are more willing to offer help.

It all started about one week before Christmas when a teacher from The Art High School in Slobozia organized an offertory at his school. The students in the school raised about £500 for our charity.

That was just the beginning. A few days later, a teacher from the local school in Amara organized a show on behalf of Fundatia. It was a great show, with a dancing contest, singing, drama and other artistic acts. At the end of the show, it was great to see kids of 7 - 8 years of age, dropping 50 pennies of their pocket money in the offering box

The goodness of the people didn't stop here. Lots of other visitors showed up at the house. Some were people that we knew from before: some were completely new to us. They offered from a pig to a brand new washing machine for the house!



All together, it shows that people trust us and they appreciate the work that we do at the house.

Emil holding Santa's hand at the show organized at the local school in Amara.

Thank you to all our supporters at Caring and Sharing

www.fundatianewlife.com



Meet our new Projects Officer

In 2005 Elizabeth Gorsuch visited my house in Bexhill to talk about Caring and Sharing to a group of ladies from St Mark's Church Wednesday Club. She spoke warmly about the projects supported by Caring and Sharing and about the fundamental concept of sacrificial giving which lies at the heart of the Caring and Sharing scheme.

I was moved to join the Caring and Sharing Group at St Mark's and have therefore been a member of the scheme for about nine years. However little did I know that in 2013 I would see Elizabeth's retirement article in the newsletter and would eventually endeavour to follow in her footsteps as Projects Officer. That article niggled away at me and I kept on pushing it to the back of my mind. No way would I have the time or skills to take over Elizabeth's role. I am still working as a teacher and freelance editor, am involved with various activities at St Mark's and enjoy playing tennis regularly. However after much thought and prayer I plucked up the courage to call Elizabeth and met with her and with Hugh who both encouraged me to join the committee.

So here I am! I am excited to be more involved with this small but effective charity and to feel closer to people in different parts of the world. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel welcome in my new role and I look forward to meeting many of our loyal supporters.

Julia Maling

AFRICAN PROJECTS

THE BUSOGA TRUST

The Busoga Trust working with The Water Trust You will remember that last year we said that thanks to Caring and Sharing contributors and the Steve Willis Memorial Fund, we planned to construct two more boreholes and these were completed during 2013.

*Children
enjoy the
fresh
water*



The first was in Pucheng which is a village in Kiryandongo District and is home to 80 households - about 400 people - most of whom are farmers. Many of the community come from displaced people in northern Uganda where they've been suffering for 20 years in one of the longest running and most brutal conflicts in the world today. "The people in this village drink dirty water," said the village chairman before construction. "We fetch water from a swamp." The water was turbid and looked brown. The sight and smell on entering the village made it immediately obvious how dirty it was. Most people didn't have a latrine and untreated faeces were visible. The aim was for every household to have access to clean water and a latrine! Now about 750 people are making use of this borehole!

The second borehole is at Tecwa Primary School which was built for the children of the displaced people. The nearest borehole was one km away. The teachers were very excited. "This water will make a big difference for the school and the local community. The water we currently use is dirty and due to the distance it causes many problems. The school will make sure that the borehole is well maintained!

We cannot stress enough how clean water and good hygiene make a huge impact on health and disease reduction in these communities.

Ann and Malcolm Bates

www.busogatrust.co.uk then to "Links" and "Partner Links"

DAY CARE CENTRE, EBENEZER HOME, INDIA

We have had a busy and exciting year. Since the last report, we have moved the Child Day Centre (CDC) into the main campus of the Ebenezer Children's Home. We decided on this move as it provided the children with a safer enclosure in a secure gated compound. It also helped us to rationalize costs of feeding the children as we are now using only one kitchen to cook the meals instead of two. It also gives the care team access to a greater number of staff to help cover holidays or times when we are short of staff. A good move for everyone!

Let me introduce you to two of our children:



Deva R (Boy) 5 years

He is a friendly and active child who gets excited when he attends CDC. Here he learns to write and enjoys the day playing with friends. He has three siblings and is the youngest in the family. His parents are poor and work on building construction sites. He loves to sing and write numbers, enjoys his nutritious food, plays on the swing and sliding board. His parents are very thankful to EHSO for caring for their child with special love.

Nithila (girl) 5 years

She is an intelligent quiet girl who is able to grasp everything taught at CDC. She has one elder brother and a younger sister. Her parents are poor labourers, and they work hard to run their family. She is neat and disciplined while learning, eating and playing outdoors with friends. Nithila is liked by everyone and her neighbours say that Nithila sings English chorus and rhymes very well.



www.ehso.org

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN, BELARUS

The Pinsk Home Hospice Team would like to send a big "Thank You" to all the Caring & Sharing Groups who so generously support them. With your support we are able to fund two nurses and the doctor, and have bought one wheel chair and are about to buy two more.



Dr Anna Bognat reports: "Every visit is very important to me. As a rule I visit two to three families in a day, so I must devote the proper time and attention to each one. Our visits are necessary, not only for the patient, but also for the parents. In my work I pursue some aims; medical questioning, examination of

the child (and if it is necessary, of the parents and any other children in the family); advisory help about the options and selection of medical preparations in the care of the child; questions about palliative help for the patient; psychological help for the parents; instruction for the parents on the care of the child and elementary medical physical training. Dialogue is important between the doctor and the parents, with the child (if it is possible). If after our visit, we see that the eyes of those under our care light up with gladness and a smile shines on the face - it means that we achieved what was needed."

Not only in the town, but in the countryside, there is very little support for terminally ill children or children who have life-limiting problems, so the work of this team is of enormous value to the families. Belarus is one of the poorest of the East European countries, so you can understand how important your contributions are. The parents always have someone they can turn to in the Team.

Tanya and Sergei (who run the home hospice team) have started fundraising for a purpose-built hospice. They have exciting plans drawn up by an architect - some ideas have come from the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, where they stayed a few years ago and from Richard House children's hospice in Stratford, East London.

Chernobyl Children Rye - jwaddams@btinternet.com

PENSIONS FOR CLERGY, RWANDA



The Clergy Pensioners met at their Dioceses again last October. Some from the Kigeme Diocese are shown here with Bishop Augustin. They look forward to this annual gathering of sharing news

and meeting old friends. It is an encouragement as they struggle with ill health, supporting dependants and just coping with daily life. The money from Caring & Sharing helps with medicines, school fees and other needs.

Josephine is 73 years old and came to a pensioners' meeting for the first time. She was widowed from Pastor Nkerabigwi Leo after his motorbike accident in 1990. Then in 1994, she fled to the Congo as a refugee with her seven children. Whilst there, she was parted from them and only returned alone to Rwanda two years ago. She subsequently discovered that one daughter had made it back to Rwanda. Now she has been reunited with old friends from the ministry.

Pastors Assa and Claver of Shyogwe Diocese have retired from decades of ministry. Most encouragingly they are committed to continue serving in the Church. Assa has a burden to educate young Christians and Claver still has a parish ministry, including church planting and working with catechists. They are thankful both for the support given to retired clergy and for being reminded that they still have a role to play. Claver would like to work with the other pensioners.

At the Shyogwe Diocese meeting Pastor Leonard led clapping for the people of Caring & Sharing.

Tony Isaacs

www.lbmt.org.uk

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Buguruni School for the Deaf in Dar es Salaam is home for some 250 children. And it really is a home for many, as half the children board there and come from all over Tanzania. The support which the school receives from Caring and Sharing is instrumental in making sure Buguruni is a home from home for these children.

In the past year the water supply at the school has been made more reliable, the electricity has received a complete and much needed overhaul and the dining room has been refurbished. In addition to this, work is starting on building an ear mould laboratory at the school which will allow ear moulds to be made on site so that children don't need to make a long and expensive journey across the city to get new ones. As they are growing, children need new moulds quite regularly so the laboratory will be a great boost for the pupils. It is hoped that it will become a source of revenue for the school too.

In the coming year work will start to install a soundproof booth which will enable children to receive hearing tests at the school and allow teachers to assess levels of hearing loss. All of this is designed to give the children a better chance in life and the financial help that Caring and Sharing gives Buguruni School continues to make a real difference in helping them see their way to a brighter future.



The two Alis with their new ear moulds and hearing aids - hopefully they will not have to wait so long for their next set as Buguruni School builds its own ear mould laboratory

CNI-SSI NAGPUR, INDIA

Caring and Sharing's money is used for helping women, particularly those who are maidservants and rag pickers, or those with little education or skills. One of the ways in which CNI-SSI works is by visiting more rural areas and offering vocational training.

Reshma - shown in the photograph with her instructor, lives in the slums of IBM, near Gittikhadan, Nagpur. She has two children and her husband works as a driver. With limited income it is very difficult to manage the expenses of the home. When Reshma heard about CNI-SSI's mobile training centre she was very keen to become a student.

Initially her husband would not permit her to join the class, but when the instructors visited her home and convinced her husband about the value to both Reshma and the family, he agreed.

She took a keen interest and learnt the skills of a beautician. While she was still learning she started getting customers for beauty treatments. Now she has completed her course she has opened a beauty salon at her home and is able to make a financial contribution to the home.

She is happy that she has started earning and is trying to save some money for her children's education. Primary education in government schools is free but only up to the age of 12/13. Books and uniform must be paid for. Many people try to send their children to private schools and of course some would like their children to become educated beyond the age of 12.



Training in action!

ASIAN PROJECTS

LITTLE FLOWER LEPROSY VILLAGE, INDIA

There are many exciting projects and structural changes going on in Little Flower. All departments are now organized into committees with the intention of getting more and more democratic and transparent in decision making. It will need a lot of training and capacity building before everything is working as planned, but the process has started.

The leprosy hospital run by Little Flower has replaced all the old beds. Thanks to Mrs Vilanek and the sister organisation in Austria, funds were raised for 140 new hospital beds. This also included new, more comfortable mattresses, which make a huge difference for the patients.



We have continued the work on the clay and bamboo houses in collaboration with Austrian architectural students. There are now three houses ready to have the bamboo roofs constructed and the young men from the village, who are benefiting from vocational training, are now more skilled and experienced.

The most important work in Little Flower is to get self-sufficient. There is ongoing work to get the dairy farm, agriculture and spinning and weaving department to be profitable and support the hospital and the village running costs. The Government is also approached to take its responsibilities by providing leprosy treatment and better education for the children. This does not mean that Little Flower doesn't need help. It is of utmost importance that the organisation is supported during this process because it will take time. Thank you for your generous and loving contribution to the work for Little Flower. It is needed.

Magnus Peterson, Swedish volunteer

www.littleflower-india.org/en

BOLGATANGA, GHANA

We have used the donations from Caring and Sharing this year to help provide food relief, mosquito nets and other essentials for the marginalized poor – particularly women, through our "Needy Scheme".

Women make up half of Ghana's population and yet represent a staggering 70% of the country's poor. For the millions of women living in poverty, their lives are a litany of injustice, discrimination and obstacles that



Some of our local women with goats provided as part of our Needy Scheme

get in the way of achieving their basic needs of good health, safe childbirth, education and employment. Women, particularly rural women, face gross inequalities and injustice from birth to death. The lifelong sequence of discrimination that a woman may suffer - from lack of adequate food, water, education and nutrition as well as from vulnerability and low paid employment - is unacceptable but all too common.

In many communities, women struggle with exercising their human rights, fulfilling their basic needs and participating in decision-making. For women and children, access to the minimum essential food which is sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe is a daily struggle. Local communities and cultural practices have developed on unequal foundations of legal frameworks and economic structures that undervalue women.

The Needy Scheme continues to work to support women and children where the need has been most, even though dwindling donations/receipts this year has meant we have had to turn away many that have knocked at our doors. Notwithstanding, we are grateful to have been able to be there for them in their moment of need, sharing in both their joys and trials.

Fr Edwin Abanga

FISTULA HOSPITAL, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Obstetric fistulae are common in poor countries where good care in childbirth is not available.

Past readers will know that the hospitals were founded by the late Dr Reg Hamlin and his wife Dr Catherine Hamlin who originally went to Addis Ababa to train midwives. They soon became aware of the dreadful condition of obstetric fistulae that affected so many of their patients. This concerned them so much that they spent the rest of their lives helping to eradicate this condition. Dr Reg died in 1993 but Dr Catherine has soldiered on. In January 2014 she will reach the great age of 90 and has no intention of retiring just yet. There are celebrations scheduled for March at the Desta Mender site just outside the capital.



Dr Catherine in the operating theatre

Over the years, free medical care linked to training for those working with expectant women has expanded and a network of hospitals has been opened around the regions of the vast country of Ethiopia. However, the mountainous terrain makes travelling difficult and as the majority of the population lives in the countryside, two days' walk from a bus route, it was decided that if the patients could not come to them they would go to the patients.

Prevention is now a major part of the work of the Hamlin set up. Expectant mothers need to be educated to visit the government health centres in good time before the baby is due. In many cases, attached to the health centre are two Hamlin midwives.

With your help we will continue to fight this dreadful condition.

Laurence Parkes
Company Secretary, Hamlin Fistula UK

www.hamlinfistulauk.org

FEEDING PROGRAMME, HONDURAS

Another year has gone by and the need to provide a nutritional feeding programme for the high risk children of parents working in the markets of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, continues. Honduras is the second poorest country in Central America and one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere. Recent statistics estimate that 60% of the population live in poverty and 36% live in extreme poverty. Although we can help with education on proper nutrition, the cost of an adequate diet is beyond the limited income of the family and sometimes the little money they have has to be spent on essentials such as travel to work and the purchase of water. Many children have just perhaps a cup of coffee and a tortilla in the early morning and then possibly nothing else.



Children come to the health education and recreational activities provided for them and only there receive the snack to resolve their hunger. To see their smiles and gratitude results in a great reward and satisfaction for all of us.

The world is a suffering one today. The part that all who have even a small amount of extra resources to give the unfortunate ones, especially children, is a very important element in the improvement of their well being. On behalf of the mothers, children, staff of Alternatives y Opportunities we thank you all so much for your generosity and solidarity with the children of Honduras.

Donald Kaminsky, Advisor, Alternatives y Opportunities

STREET EDUCATORS, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA

Many of the children with whom Let The Children Live! work come from Medellín's hundreds of shanty-towns built on the slopes of the Andes mountains. They are the most vulnerable; those 'at the bottom of the pile'; children whom all other agencies have given up on.

Life is hard, dangerous, violent .!!!. for most of the shanty-towns are controlled by gangs who impose curfews, extort money, deal in drugs, and who will kill without compunction. Rival gangs have battles in the street and a child may be caught in the crossfire and killed. Currently the gangs are auctioning off the virginity of girls between 12 and 14, whilst boys are lured into the gangs and trained as killers. Once in the gang, there is no escape for either boys or girls.



Martin, a street educator with one of the children

Let's call him Juan. He is about 10 years old and one of the 530 children we work with. He lives with a grandmother who doesn't care about him, in a shack on the mountainside. He has many problems but the worst one is the fear he experiences every night when his grandmother leaves him alone whilst she goes to work. What he fears is the arrival of a gang who will arrive with axes and chop him into pieces. Imagination? No, he heard it happened to the woman who used to live in the next shack when she fell foul of the gang with whom she used to be involved. They arrived one night with axes and meted out her punishment. Now he fears it will happen to him. Just over a year ago someone threw a firework at him and it hit his eye and burned it. His sight was saved because Funvini - our name in Colombia - paid for him to see a specialist. Otherwise he would have been blinded. We offered to provide help so that his grandmother would not need to go out at night, but she refused, preferring to go out to work. So each night Juan remains alone with his fears, but he comes each day to Casa Walsingham where he is safe, loved, fed, cared for and educated by staff who are seeking a new home for him.

Pauline Allan

www.letthechildrenlive.org/index.php

SOUTH AMERICAN PROJECTS

OLINDA

Dear Carers, My Father's House has certainly grown in many ways since we began as Crèche Emanuel many years ago. The original reason for beginning this work was the alarming number of small babies who were severely undernourished and often left on their own for long periods while young mothers went out to find work, leading to an alarmingly high infant mortality rate. Today the Brazilian government has greatly reduced these problems and severe undernourishment is almost a thing of the past. However new problems have arrived, and while the crèche continues to provide a valuable service, today it is largely supported by the local government.

MFH has moved its emphasis to meet a new and serious crisis. Drug abuse and all the resulting consequences are now Brazil's number one problem. This is affecting an ever increasing number of children and teens. The use of the drug "Crack" has now reached uncontrollable



levels and as children and teens become major users they are also the victims of the dealers (often their own parents). The demand for the MFH home for boys continues to grow. Besides the boys who live in the house we also have a group of 30 boys from the local community who meet with us regularly, as part of our prevention project, in

the hope of preventing the need for full time care. The photograph is of one of our education sessions

2014 see the World Cup coming to Brazil! We are also working along with many other groups to raise awareness of our second major problem – the sexual abuse of children and teens of both sexes – through the so called sex tourism!

Ian Meldrum, MFH Brazil

www.olindamission.no-ip.co.uk

CASA GUATEMALA

Another year has gone by. We continue to make great strides forward, but we can't do it without the help of you, our donors. Without your help, Casa Guatemala would not be able to provide the care, love, education and health care that we do for the children and families who depend on us.

This year we were able to provide these services for 225 children from 18 different villages and those children who are under our legal guardianship. In addition, we also have our teenagers who are in high school or working with us to learn important job skills at the hotel and in Casa Guatemala. Once again we have had great celebrations at the end of the school year. There have been so many success stories.

We have had some wonderful groups and individuals helping us this year and we are forever grateful for all of our volunteers and donors who have been a part of our family. We have been able to repaint some of the houses, the dining hall and kitchen and school; we have replaced the bridge to the clinic and the posts on the bridge to the boys' house. You can watch them via our [YouTube page on our Volunteer Videos playlist](#)



*Happy faces
of our youngsters*

www.casa-guatemala.org

NURSERIES OF 27 DE JULIO AND HOLY TRINITY, LIMA, PERU

2013 was full of challenges. Space is always our main problem. Every year we struggle to fit the children in our small facility. We repair the room, the roof etc and this absorbs a lot of money. We want to have a computer room but that will have to wait! The violence and degradation around the area is very bad and so we need to be careful with the little ones at the exits and so security is also high on our list of concerns.

We now also have some children with special needs in our nurseries. The parents are so happy that we are able to help and the lives of many children are touched by their experience at the nurseries. We helped to educate all of our children and ran workshops for parents to help improve their parenting skills.

Dancing lessons are enjoyed by all. We celebrated "Children's Rights" with a special feast. The children really loved it. The nursery also won the annual parade that we have every year in our local community. We go out for walking celebrations of Global Peace Day to remind the people around that we need to live in peace. We also have our annual sports day with parents and children and an annual trip for a little relaxation out of the city.



Winners of 2013 Football Cup - presented by the Reverend Pastor. Their teacher is in red and the principal is on the right

At the end of each year, we see many children smiling, healthy and strong with more knowledge. That is so joyful. Let us keep working together and many blessings to our friends in Caring and Sharing.

Isabel Montoya, Principal