



# Jacob's Well Appeal

## Winter 2023-4 Newsletter



### Visiting a disability centre in Madagascar

In October Alan and Barbara Ribey, two volunteers from Jacob's Well Appeal went to visit the Sunrise Centre, a facility supporting young people with disabilities on the island of Nosy Be, just off the coast of Madagascar. In spite of its incredible beauty Madagascar is the 5th poorest country in the world, 70% of people live below the poverty line. Only 44% of the population have access to drinking water, with 39 children out of every 1,000 dying before they reach the age of one. Thanks to the generous luggage allowance of Ethiopian Airlines we were able to take two suitcases full of educational toys for the disabled young people who were very appreciative.



The Sunrise Centre was founded by Nathan Stapely, who grew up in Beverley. Nathan originally went to Madagascar as a volunteer but quickly realized that there was no state provision for disabled young people. He decided to start the first disability centre on the island. Finally, after 5 years of fund raising, recruiting helpers and staff, and forming the charity **"Learn, Achieve, Become"**, he was able to open the "Sunrise Centre" earlier this year.

The centre now provides free education, support, food and transport for around 40 young people with disabilities on the island. To do this, they need to employ 4 full time staff and around 25 part-time staff. All the part-time staff are either parents or siblings of the students, thus ensuring consistency of care and generating a small income for families who might otherwise fall into poverty. The annual running cost of the Sunrise Centre is

around £15,000 which is funded through donations. It currently operates from a rented property but Nathan is aiming to build a new dedicated disability centre in 2024.

**Learn, Achieve Become** also runs a second project on the island which brings education to children who currently do not attend school. Many of these children work to earn a little money for their families, breaking down large rocks into small pebbles which are used for road building. Two teachers are employed to educate these children at an annual cost of £2,000.



It is hoped to raise a further £2,000 per year to hire another 2 teachers to work with those children who spend their days scavenged from the town rubbish dump.

JWA is partnering with **Learn, Achieve, Become** and is planning to send a shipment of disability aids for the young people who use the centre. We have also committed to invest £25,000 towards the cost of building a dedicated disability centre. If you are interested in supporting the annual running costs of the centre or the teachers who work with the children who work breaking rocks or on the rubbish dump, please contact us for more details.

**Warehouse Sales;** 23rd March, 17th August & 23rd November  
9am - 1pm @ Jacob's Well Yard, Beverley, HU17 0JX

**Charity Sales:** 27th April, 18th May, 29th June, 27th July, 21st Sept, & 19th October 9am - 3pm @ Toll Gavel Church Drive, Beverley, HU17 9AA

## Sierra Leone

In 2017 the Sierra Leone Autistic Society (SLAS) founded the first ever school for children with autism and other developmental/neurological disabilities in Sierra Leone. That school had 35 pupils has helped to gradually change the perception of disability in this country. Previously disabled children were “returned to the jungle” (i.e. taken into the forest and left to die). SLAS has now opened a new school for 120 children and JWA has been able to supply furniture and materials to support the school and the linked skills training centre. They are now appealing for around £3000 to purchase tools and equipment to enable them to develop a school garden. This will enable the staff and children to work together to grow food, for example potatoes, cassavas, beans, tomatoes etc which will be used in the school kitchen to help feed the children.

## Projects in Burkina Faso

### Musical Instruments

Jacob's Well Appeal partners with schools in various African nations, promoting and supporting education by building facilities and sending equipment such as chairs and tables, white and black boards, sports equipment and clothing and computers to our partner schools. Many of the children in these schools live in slum areas and would otherwise be unable to get any decent education, with the state run schools providing very little in the way of quality learning.



Shaun Crowther and Edward Cotton (Hull Music Service)

For many years we have also been sending musical instruments to our partner schools. Many African children are very gifted at music with a natural sense of rhythm and a flair for creating wonderful new melodies. What they lack are instruments and the opportunity to develop their skills. The better equipped schools might teach their children how to play the Djembe drums and how to sing in a choir, often with wonderful harmonies and breaking out into choreographed dancing as they sing! Guitars are also quite common, often missing a string or two, though none-the-less, excellently played. Some schools might have a little Casio keyboard which always seem to have a few of the notes that either don't sound or (worse) won't stop playing!

dozens of brass instruments to two of our partner schools in Burkina Faso. New music teachers have been hired and now dozens of these children are being instructed in how to play the trombone, the trumpet, cornet, French horn, Euphonium or even the tuba! This is a game changer for the schools, and the highlight of the school week for the children who get to play the instruments. Each year, schools in each city or region are asked to prepare choirs to perform in music festivals, and we are looking forward to receiving videos of our pupils accompanying their choirs with brass bands in the heart of Africa!

However thanks to a generous gift from the Hull and the East Riding Music service, we have been able to send

If you have any old musical instruments in reasonable condition that you would like to donate to school children in Africa, please contact us. Please note we can't accept acoustic pianos or large organs.

## Cost of Living Crisis in Africa - Food aid for the starving

Whilst in England the cost of living crisis has caused us to shop differently, maybe choosing cheaper brands or cutting down on expensive items, in much of the developing world it has brought millions more into extreme poverty and for many made it impossible for them to buy food. The war in Ukraine casts long shadows over the world's poor. The massive increase in fuel prices adds a lot to food prices, with anything not grown locally becoming more expensive. The lack of cheap grain, fertilizer and other food products also put pressure on prices. Then in many African countries Islamic uprisings have displaced millions of people who would be growing crops and rendered large swathes of the country barren. In Burkina Faso, the Islamic uprising has displaced over 2 million people, shut down 6100 schools depriving over 1 million children of education and left around 5 million in desperate need of food aid. The Norwegian Refugee Council annual report states that Burkina Faso is **the world's most neglected crisis situation.**



For those trying to help, they are finding that the cost of aid has more than doubled. For example, a 50Kg sack of maize (one of their staple diets) used to cost £17. A couple of years later it now costs £40. Families struggled to buy enough food even at the old prices. Now 5 million people there are finding it impossible to manage. Last year, Jacob's Well Appeal bought over 500 sacks of Maize to give to poor families who were completely unable to feed their own children. This year, the number of poor families in desperate need of food aid who are coming to our partner school has increased - the school is helping to feed over 5000 starving families now. At the same time, the cost of helping them has doubled.

Whilst Jacob's Well Appeal has already given £10,000 to purchase some maize this autumn, the school needs to purchase more. Therefore we are appealing for an additional £10,000 so that we can purchase a total of 500 sacks of grain again this year. If we buy the maize now, shortly after the harvest time, we can store it up to have the opportunity to give to poor families in the weeks and months to come.



### Shoe Boxes

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who have made shoe box gifts, especially local schools, rotary, inner wheel clubs & other clubs and to the team at Grimsby Shoe Boxes.



### Well Drilling in Burkina Faso

This autumn, our CEO John Beynon visited our existing projects in Burkina Faso, taking along Paul Brown, a retired Engineer who had spent a couple of years buying and refurbishing a second hand well drilling rig. As is often the case when shipping vehicles to Africa, someone in the port had stolen all the diesel and had probably tried to steal the drilling rig itself except they couldn't manage to start it (there was a hidden immobilizer switch that they hadn't found). When they couldn't start the engine, they took various parts of the engine to pieces to try and start the truck, but when they still couldn't start it, they put the pieces back on, in the wrong order, hence damaging the engine! After a couple of days of fixing the drilling rig, Paul was finally able to drill our first bore hole, whilst at the same time teaching a group of Africans how to use the machine, so that they could continue using the machine once Paul was no-longer in the country. As you can see, we successfully drilled down to the water and made our first bore hole. Since returning to the UK, the team have continued to use the machine, recently drilling a bore hole at one of the local hospitals which was previously purchasing all the water it needed from donkey carts! We hope that this machine will enable us to drill many more wells for needy projects and communities. The cost of drilling, now we have our own machine is roughly half of the cost of using commercial drillers.

### Annual General Meeting

We are holding our AGM on Monday 22nd January at 1pm in the King's Church Hall (beside the Jacob's Well Appeal office). If you would like to attend please email [office@jacobswellappeal.org](mailto:office@jacobswellappeal.org) to let us know.

### Value and Destinations of Aid sent in 2023

**Education** £19,993, **Food** £5,551, **Agriculture** £4,771, **Household** £16,523, **Medical** £4,314,779.  
**Total, £4,361,637**

This aid was sent to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, England, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Moldova, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Swaziland / Eswatini, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Zimbabwe

### Staff changes

Bridget Conroy is leaving at Christmas. We would like to say a huge thank you to Bridget for all her hard work over the past 9 years running the office and especially for organising 5 amazing charity balls at Lazaats. Her replacement, Lucy Mallender has already started. We also have a new part time shop manager, Julie Allison, who has replaced Amy Scheepers who left in November. We would also like to thank Amy for her work in the shop over the past year.

### Projects in Ghana

We run a large seedbank in Ghana helping over 150 women and a very generous donor has provided tractors as well as a multisheller to help this project be successful. The harvest this year is better than last year, although the rains are so unpredictable that the communities struggle to plant the seeds at the best time. In the past when the rains started they did not stop. Now they stop and start. If you plant too early and the rains stops for a few weeks before restarting you will lose your crop. If you plant too late you don't get a crop.

We also run smaller seed bank projects with our partners SAC helping impoverished women grow soya, ground nut and bambura seeds. Last year the harvest was so bad that the beneficiaries hardly grew more than they planted. This year it has been much better and communities have really benefited from this input. We are very grateful for the hard work put in to these projects by our partners.



In the north of Ghana many schools do not have toilet facilities. One such school is the Eggu Junior High School in the Wa West District. This school was built in early 1993 and has 165 pupils – 78 boys and 87 girls. Students go to the nearby waste ground to go to the toilet, causing many hygiene problems. Some students have been bitten by snakes! For girls during their menstrual periods it is a particular problem as they are unable to clean or change themselves. Pupils will either go home to use toilets there (and often not return), or they will avoid drinking so that they won't need the toilet. This leads to health issues, such as dehydration or kidney disease. It is also hard for the school to retain teachers who also don't want to use the wasteland alongside the children for going to the toilet.

Jacob's Well Appeal is hoping to build a 3 cubicle block – one for the boys, one for the girls and one for the teachers similar to the one shown below. This would include a water-tank which would enable the children to be able to wash their hands. The cost of this is £4,500.

### Completed Projects in N.W. Ghana

Since our previous newsletter, we have completed the refurbishment of the operating theatre at the Wa Municipal hospital. We have also completed the building of a small paediatric ward at the Hain Clinic.



A similar toilet block at a school in Ghana

### DONATIONS: - Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacobs Well Appeal  
Account Number: 67235135  
Sort Code: 08-92-99

**Do you have email?** If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, save costs and the environment, please send your email address to [office@jacobswellappeal.org](mailto:office@jacobswellappeal.org) with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank you!

### MEDICATION

Sadly we are no longer able to send patients' medication abroad. If you send us your medication, even if it has never been opened, we will have to pay to have it destroyed. Please return it to your local pharmacy.



A HUGE thank you to all our amazing volunteers and to all those who support us by donating money, medical supplies, items to sell, knitting blankets and making shoe boxes. **If the monies raised exceed the amount needed for the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we will use the extra money to fund similar projects.**