



Charity number 1149830

GIFT WRAPPED

Issue 4 - July 2017

Hello again to all our friends and members and welcome to the latest edition of Gift Wrapped the official newsletter for Africa's Gift. As ever we have lots of exciting updates plus many ways in which you can get involved.

Life on the Farm

In previous editions of Gift Wrapped you will have seen some very exciting updates on the work carried out on the farm. Amongst many other things we have fruit trees planted, a new store room and farm manager's house constructed and two large poly-tunnels up and running and after harvesting our first crops of tomatoes and peppers, we now have winter crops in production such as kale, cabbage and carrots. We have also made our first sales of produce which is an important step towards our aim of making the farm self-sufficient.

Our next major project is to acquire an independent water supply for the farm. Whilst rain when we get it, helps with the outdoor crops the produce in the tunnels needs water to be sourced from somewhere. The conditions within the tunnels also lead to crops growing quicker and hence needing more water.

Currently water is pumped from a borehole at the secondary school along about ¼ mile of piping into three large Jo-Jos (water butts). This causes disruption at the school (if pumping is needed during the day then this can be extremely noisy). It is also expensive as a petrol generator is used to power the pump, and petrol can be difficult to obtain (the nearest petrol station is over an hour's drive away). Most importantly of all though Lesotho is a country that has very unpredictable weather and is prone to suffer from droughts. The drought in 2016 was the worst in 35 years for many regions of the country. We need to try to ensure that the farm is not in competition with the school at any point for water, especially when it is in short supply.

So what can be done? Our aim is to have our own borehole within the boundaries of the farm. We have already had a survey completed and a suitable site to drill has been identified. If you have ever visited the farm you may have seen a metal post in the ground near the entrance. This is not a leftover from the building work or a tiny flagpole it's a marker for where a water source has been discovered. As with many things in Lesotho, being able to access this will prove difficult.



The water is estimated to be at least 35m below ground so not easy to get our hands on. The installation of the borehole itself will cost in the region of £3,500. We don't want to just stop there as the aim is also then to have a solar pump to access the water for us. Not only will this remove the need to pay for petrol to run the generator, but is also an environmentally more favourable option and sits alongside our principles of sustainable agriculture. The pump will cost an additional £7,600 so this is a major undertaking for a charity the size of Africa's Gift.

What can you do to help? As always we welcome any donations towards the costs of work. We have already had an offer of support from our good friend Dr Marianne Fischer and any ideas you may have for raising money are always welcomed. Don't forget to look out for our fundraising events coming up in the future and if you're not already a member of Africa's Gift please consider joining or alternatively you can make a donation through our website at www.africasgift.org every pound we raise really does make a difference. You can see details as to how to become a member at the end of this newsletter.

There's Treasure in Them There Hills

One of our members Candi Colbourn wrote:

"It was a lovely sunny day when we headed over to Penistone for the inaugural Africa's Gift Treasure Hunt arranged by Nick one of our trustees.

Over 30 people set off throughout the afternoon, with a promise of burgers and tea if we completed. Which was a good job as this wasn't a hunt for the faint of heart. With over 80 questions and a good two and half hour walk this was a serious business. Questions ranged from easy spot the missing letters to the slightly harder task of finding certain graves in a rather large graveyard.

Starting at the community centre myself and Lesley my partner in crime, headed off enthusiastically, easily getting the first few clues. However, our initial euphoria quickly faded as we started to come a bit unstuck and we realised this was not going to be the easy walk in the park we had first thought. Yet despite having to skip some clues where the answers just eluded us we ploughed bravely on. We saw dolphins, walked past Narnia, counted the viaduct arches, and searched lampposts for missing signs. Alongside all of that we managed to collect something from outer space, find a huge dock leaf, and count the number of bikes we saw (Ok so we lost count after the first 20 and just made that one up!)

After tea and burgers we were quite pleased that despite my terrible maths losing us some points, and a very serious debate over the number of white fence posts we managed to come fourth. All in all it was a lovely way to spend an afternoon, and we can definitely say we have seen all that Penistone has to offer".

The final scores were extremely close resulting in joint winners (Caroline and Mick along with Simon and Hilary). To show there was no bias the wooden spoon was won by Nick's daughters.

Back at the ranch there was food provided whilst our guests could see a display covering some of the great work done by Africa's Gift, listen to a speech by Dik, buy jewellery and gifts handmade in Lesotho as well as try their luck on the obligatory tombola.

A huge thank you to all those who attended and made donations. The event raised £550 and put into context this could build a toilet for use in a school. Thanks again for all of those who attended on the day for their generous support.



In Other News

St Bernard's School

Our friends from St Bernard's Catholic High School (Rotherham) are visiting Malealea Valley in 2018 and will be working again on the school in Ribaneng. Preparations have already commenced for the construction of toilets at the school for which St Bernard's have very kindly helped us with early finance to commence. In tandem they have also provided support for the introduction of Days for Girls sanitary kits. Thanks to all at St Bernard's for your continued support and hope you are all looking forward to your trip.



Masemouse

The co-operative managing the fish farm goes from strength to strength. Not only are they now up and running farming their own fish, but they also now have chickens for egg production. The birds are kept secure at night in a building near the fish farms and then allowed to roam round during the day when members of the co-operative are present to keep an eye on them.



Wonderbags

Wonderbags have long been promoted by Africa's Gift and are helping to change lives in rural Africa. The Wonderbag acts like a slow cooker; once food has been brought to the boil, the pot is removed from the heat source and placed into the insulated bag to finish cooking. The bag allows the food to cook for up to another 12 hours without any drop in temperature which significantly reduces the amount of fuel and water required for cooking.

Now you too could own your own fantastic Wonderbag and save energy as these are now available for sale in the UK via Africa's Gift. Prepare your meal, go out for a walk and it is ready to serve when you get home without having to leave the oven on. Don't just buy one for yourself: consider a purchase as a gift. At only £50 (including P&P) your Wonderbag will soon pay for itself as well as helping you to cook in a more eco-friendly way. Donate £65 and not only do you get your own bag, but you can sponsor one for a family in Africa. We will also provide you with a Gift Certificate for each purchase.



Just visit our website at africagift.org to purchase your own Wonderbag now.

Africa's Gift Goes Wild

With the help of Flodden Scouts, who invited us to join them for the weekend, we were recently able to showcase Wonderbags at The Bushcraft Show 2017 at Rosliston in Derbyshire.

This was an awesome event, with attractions for all the family which included bushcraft and survival techniques, woodland crafts, fire lighting, shelter building, foraging, and the list goes on. Ray Mears and Lofty Wiseman were amongst the guest speakers, and on the Monday, our very own Ken Dunn was also invited to speak.

We hoped this would be the 'right' audience for promoting Wonderbags, and we were not disappointed! In addition to our usual 'African craft' sales, and in spite of more than one thorough soaking (well it was Bank Holiday!), we were delighted to sell ten Wonderbags on this their first outing. In addition a few customers were also kind enough to sponsor a second bag for a family in Africa too.



Lightme Bio-oil Candles

Our fantastic friends at LightMe are making a donation of £1 to us for each sale of their Bio-oil Candles.

Refined from only the finest Bio-oil, LightMe Bio-oil Candles are designed to overcome the harmful nature of traditional paraffin wax and liquid wax candles. LightMe's mix of oils create the perfect ambience whilst being one of the safest real flame candles in the world.

Traditional wax candles have been made from paraffin (a fossil fuel) for decades and have seen little change. Paraffin can contain many harmful emissions and often high levels of soot. LightMe Bio-oil Candles change all of that with up to 1,000 times less soot than a traditional paraffin candle. No more cleaning black soot from lamps and walls.

Their liquid candles are designed to extinguish when knocked over and create no mess from spills like a wax candle would.

With a 35-40 hour burn time per candle, LightMe Bio-oil Candles do not have to cost the earth.

You can purchase your candles at www.lightme.uk/home-living/ and use reference `africagift` as you check out.



Days for Girls

The Days for Girls volunteers in the UK, led by Claire Codling, recently produced a further 70 kits that have been sent to the high school in Ribaneng where they were joyfully received. In Malealea, an overlocker (sewing machine) is soon to be purchased to speed up production and an order for further kits has been placed with the local Malealea sewing group. They are currently working on fulfilling this.

Aspire Stride out Again



Africa's Gift has a very special group of friends in Leeds, who for the last six years have made regular donations to the charity.

Aspire is a not for profit social enterprise providing care and support for young adults with learning disabilities.

Those young people confidently take things in their stride (literally!) by holding an annual sponsored walk with proceeds donated to support our work. Over the years they have contributed to the refurbishment of school toilets, the planting of eucalyptus (fuel wood for coppicing) on the farm, the building of a night watchman's hut and (later) a tool store for the farm. This tool store was latterly converted into a house for our farm manager Lebohang. Thank you Aspire, thank you all!

This year's walk took place on Tuesday 20th June and involved a walk around Swinsty Reservoir. There was a fantastic turnout with over 80 people present. The funds raised by the group will contribute towards a new initiative for the farm with the purchase and keeping of chickens for egg production. Sale of the eggs will help to provide money towards the wage bill as we now have two employees on the farm; a further step towards the farm becoming self-sustainable.

This year the charity Trustees are absolutely thrilled that a few of them were able to join the walkers, and thank them in person for their efforts to help the community of Malealea. Aspire raised £900 for us from this walk so we can't thank Aspire enough for their ongoing support.



Forthcoming Events

If you're visiting the South Yorkshire Festival at Wortley Hall on 13th August look out for our stand. We will have jewellery and Wonderbags on sale along with more displays advertising the great work being done. Hunt us down and come and have a chat.

It will soon be time for our AGM. Invitations to all members will soon be sent out, but keep Wednesday 6th September free in your diary.

Thank Yous

As ever we have a number of individuals and organisations to thank for their support:



Axeholme Lions for their support for Makheteng Primary School. This has enabled improvements to the school garden including shade netting to combat the extremes of the weather.

MGB Plastics, Rotherham for the donation of wheelie bins for shoe collections.

Shelagh Woolliscroft for the donation towards Wonderbags.

David Pilkington for the donation towards stoves.

All those who donate to The Peter Robinson Memorial Fund whose contributions have assisted Tsinyane community members with small environmental projects impacting on rainwater capture and food production.

And as ever to all our members who continue to support us on a regular basis.

Fundraising Update

A huge thank you from all at Africa's Gift must go to:

Clifton Methodist Church, Rotherham who held an African evening with a talk and themed food.

Silhill U3A for funds towards introducing Wonderbags into a community in Tanzania.

East Cowick Ladies Guild for the donation at a talk at their monthly meeting.

Rawcliffe Gospel Hall for donations at their talk and slide show.

Winks Wills of Howden for carrying out a raffle and presentation.

Particular thanks go to Harold Mason a local resident of Rawcliffe, East Riding, who recently held a fundraising coffee morning and is planning a further two coffee mornings in July and September.

Other regular donors whose contributions have supported orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) or provided trees to combat soil erosion or supplement local dietary needs.

Happy Feet – Shoe Appeal

Most of us have old shoes that we no longer wear. If you have such unwanted footwear then please donate them to us. We seek all types of footwear (with the exception of slippers and women's fashion boots) with children's shoes particularly prized as this often enables kids to attend school.

We just kindly ask that all shoes are clean, paired and tied together.

Why not start up a local collections point. You could maybe ask your local shop or community centre to place an advert and act as a collection point. Simple donations of such unwanted items can make a massive difference to an individual's life. For more detail drop us a line at info@africasgift.org



Partnership Impact Visits (PIVs)

As usual our intrepid Chairman Ken is leading a number of trips out to Africa this year. In July he is taking a school trip out to Malealea and then a trip of returnees out to carry out volunteer work a decade after they went as teenagers. Another trip in August sees a group from the National Young Farmers visiting and we will be particularly interested in their views on the farm.

Ever considered volunteering abroad, but not sure how to go about it? Then why not consider a taster visit on a Partnership Impact Visit (PIVs). PIVs can be individually tailored to meet the needs and interests of your group and we work in partnership with communities across a number of African countries. There is a taster trip due to travel out in October and there are still places available if you are looking for a fantastic alternative type of holiday.

Face Africa Ltd & Africa's Gift PIVs to South Africa & Lesotho are provided through a strategic alliance between Face Africa Ltd and Africa's Gift Ltd. Face Africa is a UK registered, bonded & insured tour operator specialising in "Fair Trade Tourism", and specifically community-based tourism, to Africa. Africa's Gift Limited works with them and aims to promote global citizenship by creating partnerships between schools and community groups in the UK with their counter- parts in the developing world. We work very closely to ensure that your group receives the support and preparation required to make a success of the PIV – both for the visiting group and the host community.

Some of the highlights of a typical trip to South Africa and Lesotho include:

CAPE TOWN: The Mother City. Your arrival point and the ideal place to orient the group and provide context for the trip ahead. You will visit Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent so many years incarcerated. We will help you understand the origins of 'Apartheid' and its implications for the people of South Africa's past and present. You will also experience the physical beauty of the Cape Peninsula, hiking along the top of Table Mountain and visiting the Cape of Good Hope. You will see the stadium built for the 2010 World Cup, and experience the spirit of Ubuntu that inspired all those who visited South Africa to witness that.



MALEALEA The winding road up to Malealea and over the "Gates of Paradise" pass will stay with you forever. It's a stunning drive and the excitement builds as you near Malealea Lodge. Day 1 is an orientation day and tour of the local area – including the high school, crèche and local tourism initiatives. The orientation will cover the upcoming work and introduce you to the Malealea Development Trust as well as members of the local community and school that you will be engaging with on your project. Work days will depend on the impact project to be undertaken, but there will be opportunities on a couple of afternoons to head out and enjoy some of the fine activities on offer – from hiking to the Botsoela Waterfall, to a pony-trek along the ridge of the Makhalleng River. In the evenings, we will sit around the camp fire, fill up on wholesome grub and reflect on the work being undertaken and the impact this is having on the community and just as importantly, on ourselves. A final tour of the project work done will be followed by a farewell ceremony. Expect some amazing singing, and make sure to practice your effort for the final song!



PILANESBERG GAME RESERVE Located in the north-west of South Africa, Pilanesberg is the 4th largest national park in the country at 55,000 hectares. It is a visually stunning park located in the crater of a long extinct volcano, with a large lake in the middle. The park is home to a wide variety of animals including all of the Big 5 (elephant, lion, rhino, leopard & buffalo) and birdlife. You will be staying in a lodge close to the reserve, and will have the opportunity to enjoy early morning and late afternoon game drives on an open vehicle.



For more details or to explore other possible itineraries then contact us here at info@africagift.org

How can you get involved??

You may like the option of visiting an African community by joining us on an organised PIV or get your own group together and request a bespoke itinerary to match your interests. Bikers, photographers, walkers, runners, pony trekkers? **What's your hobby? Turn it into a holiday with friends and help others less fortunate at the same time.**

Or you may prefer to **make a difference** from home by sponsoring an orphan to attend school, doing some fundraising for your chosen cause (have a look for them at www.africagift.org) or organising a fun event to raise awareness of our work and encourage others to join you.

Or maybe this way of **making a difference** would suit you.....

Why not join us by becoming a member of Africa's Gift. From as little as £5 per month your donation could help us to make a massive difference to a family or child in Africa.

Here are examples of current costs.

£25 can contribute towards a solar panel for the farm	£50 could buy you your own Wonderbag to cook at home	£5 could buy a chicken to provide an income for the farm and eggs for the local schools
£30 would help pay for fuel to pump water on the farm	£10 buys fruit trees to support food	
£3.50 buys a 'Wonderpad set' including delivery to Lesotho. Between 35-40 school days a year can be lost by a girl through menstruation related absences		£12.50 per month pays for an orphan or vulnerable child to attend secondary school for the year
Every pound counts, and it goes much further in Africa!		

As a member of Africa's Gift you will receive our Newsletter 3 times a year direct to your inbox which will keep you up to date with our activities in Africa, along with information about all fundraising events that we or our friends have organised. You will also be invited to our Annual General Meeting, and receive advance notification of any new initiatives we become involved with.

Join us at www.africagift.org, where you can also Gift Aid your subscription

Please complete and return the form overleaf.

Thank you



Africa's Gift
RCN 1149830

STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION

Please complete and return to the address below (not your bank)

To the manager (insert name of your bank/building society) _____

Full branch address _____

Sort code _____ Account number _____

Please pay to: Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Beneficiary: Africa's Gift Ltd

Account number 20354244

Sort code 60-83-01

The sum of £ _____

On _____
(insert date of first payment)

And the same sum on the same day each month / quarter / year (please delete) until I cancel this order.

Signed

Date

If you are a UK tax payer, and would like us to claim Gift Aid on your donation(s) please continue below.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made (please tick **all** that apply)

today during the past 6 years in the future

I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Your details

We will only use your contact details for processing your donations, and will not make them available to anyone else. Your membership subscription entitles you to receive our newsletter up to 3 times a year, and updates of new developments Africa's Gift may embark upon. Please tick here if you **do not** wish to receive the newsletter , or occasional updates about new developments . Thankyou

Title _____ Forename _____ Surname _____

Full postal address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Signed

Date

Please notify the charity if you

want to cancel this declaration, change your name/address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate and want to receive additional tax relief due to you, please request help from HMRC.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO

Membership Secretary, Africa's Gift Ltd, 22 Parkfield Road, Rotherham, S65 2AT

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