

# CHCT Newsletter

FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE CATRIONA HARGREAVES CHARITABLE TRUST

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## HO HO HOE!

### Santa calls early for a lucky farming village



**VILLAGERS** work hard in Ekambang, Cameroon but still go hungry for lack of proper tools, poor quality seeds and low yields.

All that is changing after CHCT provided £2,000 for hoes like these, machetes, watering cans and

improved vegetable seeds. First to benefit are over 90 widows and single mothers who will get training in efficient organic farming methods to feed their families. Four demonstration gardens are being set up and nourishing crops like tomato, cabbage, okra and carrots will be on the menu. Selling the surplus will bring enough cash to send their children to school.

Kwangene Princely of the CENCUDER development association says: "Young people will get formal education and the poverty cycle will be broken.

"The number of street children and orphans will be reduced. Women will be busy in the gardens instead of drifting into prostitution."

He hopes to extend the benefits to neighbouring villages in future.



Your turn . . . Villagers line up for the shiny new farming equipment

**KENYA'S** Mustard Seed school has exploded from 17 to 270 children who would otherwise be on the streets. To mark the tenth anniversary next year its ambitious co-founder Rita Fowler is aiming for an upper storey with room for six more classrooms, so everyone can be in the same building—saving £500 a month in rent.

In the past CHCT provided a well, toilets and medical clinic. Another £4,000 grant was sent last year on top of £8,000 from other donors.

## Mustard still grows

Rita said after a recent visit to Africa: "Last week was the graduation ceremony. It was lovely to see all the six-year-olds in their gowns and hats and all the children presenting their poems and songs.

"Shame the parents were late but time has so little importance out here!"

## ARE YOU ON EMAIL?

Supporters receiving the newsletter by email can get full colour, sharper pictures—and save the charity on postage.

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# PROFESSOR JOHN STANFORD



**THE charity suffered a grievous loss in June with the death of its co-founder, Professor John Stanford.**

John began his career as a doctor at Guys Hospital, London, back in the 60's but his more enduring career shift came as he entered the world of scientific research, firstly at the Middlesex where he became consultant and head of microbiology, and then to UCL retiring finally as Emeritus Professor in 2004.

His academic work eventually led to the formation of Stanford Rook in order to facilitate the development of his discoveries. John's enduring achievements over half a century are his pioneering work on the study of mycobacteria and their effects on the immune system. There are over 250 scientific publications of which he was the author, and very

many citations in international journals where his work is well recognised. Although John's ground-breaking work was originally on diseases of the developing world, it soon became apparent that the same discovery was similarly effective in cancer, asthma and other auto-immune conditions where a patient's ability to recognise and regulate a response to challenge was harnessed.

This has long been recognised internationally by the scientific community but the same was not true of the medical community. John was a man ahead of his time and it is only now that he is regarded as one of the leading authorities on the workings of the immune system.

At Fontilles in Spain important work was accomplished in the laboratory. In the leprosy clinic an appropriate dosage scheme was established which enabled the immunotherapy to be used at optimum dosage world-wide. John was not only a very modest man of science but his aim was a life-long desire to help his fellow man. There are many people scattered across the countries of the world who have enjoyed an improved quality of life from his work. John would have seen that as the fulfilment of his own personal ambitions. John's discoveries will not die with him. On the contrary, there are many torch bearers who continue to advance his pioneering work--Oscar and Gustavo in South America. Annamaria in Australia. Anita and Charlotte in Denmark. Alison in Wales. Katty in Iran, Pedro in Spain and Dick in Holland to name but a few of the many who recognise the intrinsic value of his work.

*John's pioneering work is not forgotten; on the contrary it will endure.*

## Busiest year for helping out

CHCT trustees report a record of £26,766 paid out in grants during the 2017-18 financial year, made possible by the generous legacy left by supporter Isobel Livingstone.

This bonanza brought a flood of requests from new applicants, all of them needing detailed checks to weed out any scroungers, so there is now a

strict investigation process before any money goes out. A lengthy description, budget, objectives and independent references are all required. The grants list was:

SALVE drug rehab for children, Uganda, £2,000;  
Society for Community Development, India, £1,071;  
Concord Trust India £2,000;

Ebenezer womens' welfare, India, £1,8000;  
Heart of Kenya orphans £2,000;  
Mustard Seed Kenya £4,000;  
Cecily's Fund Zambia £2,000;  
Bombay Leprosy £3,000;  
Cameroon farm project £2,000;  
Sightsavers India £1,000;  
Child Development Trust £2,000;  
Wamba orphan school £1,895;  
Holistic care Malawi £2,000.



## Feeding the 1,000

CHCT's £1,895 grant has put a roof over the heads of cooks who produce over 1,000 meals a day for HIV orphans of Kenya's remote Samburu tribe.

Wamba Community Trust's leaky kitchen (left) was unfit for purpose but has now been fully refurbished. Chicken coops were also built to provide supplies of eggs. Wamba's meals are all the children get to see them through the day and boost school attendance.

## A sanctuary for the HIV toddlers

IN India's Tamil Nadu the Ebenezer Women's Welfare group is using the charity's £1,800 grant to run two day care centres for preschool children of HIV mothers from five surrounding villages.

Each centre has a teacher and an assistant who keep the youngsters fed with nourishing meals from local vegetables. They get smart uniforms and sleeping mats which allow them to stay overnight

in safety. Government doctors and nurses give periodic health checks. Secretary Miss P Sagunthala writes: "These tribal children do not know about cleanliness and food hygiene.

"Through their time here health care has been improved, sanitation maintained and malnutrition reduced. Herbal remedies protected them from a widespread outbreak of dengue fever."

# IT ALL ENDED WELL

**FIELD** workers acted swiftly to save a £3,146 health programme funded by CHCT in Africa.

UK-based Village Water planned to install a well and teach hygiene precautions at the village of Nalafune, a farming community in Zambia's Western Province, as reported in last year's newsletter.

But staff, who take five hours to reach the remote location by four-wheel drive, found that the locals had dropped out of the health precautions they had promised to maintain—so another village, Ndambula, was chosen instead.

Village Water's fund-raiser Kirsty Mullock said: "Initially Nalafune was very positive but they failed to fulfil their part of the agreement and install the required sanitary facilities.

"Primitive open toilets were still in use. It is so important that the community are behind the changes to improve their situation for the long term. We do not take this decision lightly and the village



*Future perfect . . . Fresh water is a life-changer for all the villagers*

were given multiple opportunities to make the changes."

She added: "Your grant has now made a transformation in the health of Ndambula. We were delighted to find they have had no recent cases of water-borne diseases."

The charity provided a protected waterpoint with a

handpump drilled to 20 or 25 metres which will give the community safe water for years to come. It is deep enough to cope with any changes in the water table.

Not having to fetch water from distant ponds villagers are also noticing they have more time for useful work, the start of their journey away from poverty.

