

**The BARK FOUNDATION**  
(Registered Charity Number:1129762)  
**In support of HOTPEC ORPHANAGE, BUEA, CAMEROON**  
President: Reverend Edward Sakwe

OCTOBER 2014

**NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends

Work at HOTPEC Orphanage continues on a daily basis, now caring for 143 orphans aged from very young babies to university age. The latest additions are 4 babies recently rescued by 'the authorities' from trafficking, Nigeria/Cameroon (the youngest only 3 weeks old at the time). Although 'the authorities' offer no financial assistance to the orphanage they know where to take them to be well cared for!

All of you, our supporters, can be very proud of what you have helped us to achieve. The Bark Foundation Baby Unit has, since it was opened in November 2010, enabled many more children to be received into a caring environment. The Bark Foundation Volunteer and Training centre (opened in November 2013) has subsequently provided much needed accommodation for the adults needed on site to care for the needs of the ever increasing numbers of orphans.

AGCOM, a Charity Organisation in Buea, the town on the outskirts of which the orphanage is situated, recently held a 'giving day' for orphanages, widows, elderly and disabled persons. HOTPEC Orphanage is now the largest orphanage in South West Cameroon. We have been told by Beatrice Mugri (Matron) that they were very proud to be able to host this prestigious event in the Bark Foundation Training Centre – the enormous hall that is the lower level under our volunteer accommodation holds 520 people. It is the only such facility in the region, but even so there were people sitting outside, so it was a very big occasion indeed!

WATER SITUATION – The Water Tower provided by Barbara Watson is built but awaiting connection to a 'mains' water supply. The Mutengene Water Project (local Water Authority) are addressing the whole problem of supply in the Buea area. A major new project is needed but they have been unable to work during our summer due to very heavy rains. HOTPEC Management have been called to a meeting on 29th October so we hope for some positive news then.

Thanks to recent fund raising (see list below) we have been able to **complete repayment of the extra loan of £4,500** that HOTPEC Management had taken out in addition to our personal loan to get the Volunteer Centre finished ready for us to open last November. We are grateful for the understanding of the creditors in Cameroon who have shown great patience in waiting whilst we raised the money.

**NEXT TASK - £7,500 NEEDED FOR VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING CENTRE WINDOWS**

Opening up of the lower end of the site to facilitate building of the Volunteer Centre had left the perimeter insecure so some of the funds intended for installation of window frames and glass louvres was diverted. The new fence serves a dual purpose – to keep unwelcome visitors out, and prevent small adventurers straying into dangerous terrain. BUT – with window spaces minus glass, the wind can blow the rain into the building, so we need to get the windows in. The cost for all of them will be £7,500 – that seems a lot, until you count up how many windows are needed – 21 on the top level and 46 in the training hall! (It's right, we've checked the progress photos!). We have been able to send £3,500 already to make a start (accommodation rooms first), and hope to be able to finish the rest by the end of the year.

**Recent successful fund raising events:**

'Jewellery Stall' at Road Methodist Church Summer Fete (12<sup>th</sup> July) and the 'Seaside Day' at Abbey Pumping Station, Leicester (7 Sept.).

A barbecue kindly hosted and provided by Keith and Audrey Baker on 1<sup>st</sup> August was well supported (in spite of pouring rain!).

'Coffee Shop at Birstall Methodist Church 20<sup>th</sup> September.

A 'Ladies Pamper Afternoon' kindly organised and hosted by Liz Thornber – beauty treatments and massages by experts from Neal's Yard and delicious cakes baked by Liz Thornber and Kathy Wright.

Another visit to Aroma Spice Indian Restaurant, Birstall on 6<sup>th</sup> October – 27 people enjoyed a good company and a delicious meal.

**TRUSTEES:**

**Website: [thebarkfoundation.org](http://thebarkfoundation.org)**

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**THE 'BRICK PROJECT'** – following the display of the 'wall' of 306 'bricks' at the Birstall Methodist Church 'Showcase' on 5<sup>th</sup> July we took part in a banner exhibition at the Methodist Church Centre in Bishop Street, Leicester, 4<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September – again the work was much admired (it is 14ft long, almost 7ft deep and now has 315 'bricks'). There is space on the bottom of the 'wall' so you can still send in your 'brick' if you wish – 10cmx20cmx5mm!).

## **FUTURE FUND RAISING PLANS:**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am-2.00pm– Jewellery Stall at Birstall Methodist Church Christmas Festival.**

**On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 10am-7pm the Church Community will hold a Christmas Market** with lots of home-made goodies – jams, pickles, cakes etc. – and Christmas decorations. Coffee, soup & puds, hotdogs, pancakes to sustain you! The church will be packed with Christmas themed displays from many local groups – come and see!

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00 am-4.00 pm.** We are looking forward to taking the **Jewellery Stall** to the **CHRISTMAS FAIR at Bradgate Park** (Newtown Linford, Leicestershire). It was a wonderful festive atmosphere last year with lots of interesting stalls, a Santa's Magical Woodland Grotto and interesting demonstration of crafts. A real family occasion well worth braving the cold to visit – most of the attractions are outside so wrap up warm and pay us a visit!

**Indian Evening** - Watch this space! – We were unable to make arrangements for the planned 'Indian Evening' during Autumn so plan to hold the event in the New Year. Details to follow when known but we hope to make it an entertaining evening with dancing, singing and good food – to be held in Birstall Methodist Church Hall and limited to 80 people attending.

Further events will be arranged as the opportunity arises so keep a 'look out' so that you do not miss them.

**DON'T FORGET:**

**YOU CAN NOW FIND US ON 'FACEBOOK'!** Go to: [www.thebarkfoundation.org](http://www.thebarkfoundation.org) and click on the link.

The Trustees are extremely grateful to the wonderful people who support The Bark Foundation – without generous donations of time and expertise as well as financial support our work as only three trustees just could not function.

**If you wish to make a donation to help us to improve the lives of the children of our HOTPEC family please either send it direct to our home address or through 'CHARITY CHECKOUT', on line.**

We cancelled our subscription to 'Just Giving' and enrolled with 'Charity Checkout' because they offered better terms - please see our website where you can click for on-line donations. Some supporters choose to make their own arrangements directly from their own bank account to ours via a monthly 'direct debit'. (Please just ask for our bank account details). Modest donations made on a regular basis are greatly appreciated and will be even more important as we begin to support the education programme.

If you are a UK taxpayer and would like us to claim 'GIFT AID' on your donation this can be done through 'Charity Checkout' or by including a note with the following statement and information if sending directly to us:

Please treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future as GIFT AID donations.

Title.....Initials.....Surname.....Home address.....

POSTCODE..... SIGNED..... Date.....

**Thank you for all your support** – and for being interested enough to read this far!

Best wishes.

Joy, David, Charles and Edward

## **TRUSTEES:**

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