



Supporting beekeeping projects
in developing countries

BEEES

ABROAD

NEWSLETTER

www.beesabroad.org.uk

No 16, November 2008

The Challenge Continues

Welcome to our supporters and readers of this latest Bees Abroad Newsletter. It has been an exciting and challenging time since you last read about us. Personally it was an honour to become the Chairman of the charity. I certainly never envisaged having to do this when I volunteered to be a project leader. Nevertheless, I will endeavour to do my best to continue the work of my predecessor Jeff Bee, who chaired the charity from its conception.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Jeff for all that he achieved during his time of leadership. Without his guidance, enthusiasm and drive we would not be where we are today. So I take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate his contribution to the charity. He will be a hard act for me to follow to ensure that the aims of the work which we seek to do in alleviating poverty in parts of the world through beekeeping will be continued.

Continuing Enquiries

There are many success stories about the different projects which all indicate



Hilary Gilmore, our Fund-raiser

the importance of the work that we seek to do with Bees Abroad. The very fact that we receive some 30 to 35 new enquiries a year indicates that our work is known and appreciated. Sadly, we are not in a position to undertake many of these enquiries but this is where I make a plea to you, our readers and supporters.

One way you could help us to fulfil some of these requests is, of course, finance and I don't hide that we cannot undertake this work without the necessary funds. However, the second thing that we need is suitable people who could take on projects. You may not think, like I did, that you could do something like this but if you have beekeeping skills and a will to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves, please get in touch. We would be delighted to discuss our work with you before you possibly undertake one of the new requests we receive.

Changes to the Team

Earlier I did mention some changes that had happened in the Bees Abroad team. Firstly and somewhat sadly, Juliet, our administrator, indicated that because of family commitments she would need to stand down from the work she was undertaking on our behalf. Reluctantly we had to accept her decision although she will still remain an active supporter of Bees Abroad. Thank you Juliet for all the work you did for us.

We have been extremely fortunate in now having appointed a new administrator, Veronica Brown, who has experience in helping organisations like ourselves. During the last few months Veronica has had the opportunity of meeting with most of us and now feels very much part of the Bees Abroad team. Her skills will be



Veronica Brown, our Administrator

extremely valuable as she assists us in the running the Charity.

The other exciting news is we now have an experienced fund raiser in our team. Hilary Gilmore comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and will be a great help in the work that we seek to do. At a recent get-together Hilary had the opportunity to meet many of our project leaders and supporters so hearing news of the ongoing projects.

A World Without Bees

Finally amongst all the events, shows, presentations and talks that we have undertaken this year, one was most unusual and a first for Bees Abroad. We were invited to give a presentation and display at the Guardian book launch in London of the new book, *A World without Bees*. It created a considerable last-minute work load for our team of helpers led by Claire Waring but the whole event was a most valuable exposure of our charity at the event and it is one that we would seriously consider should a similar invitation come our way again.

John Home, Chairman

Encouraging News from Uganda

Roy Dyche

In the last newsletter I described the successful launch of an ambitious venture in Uganda's remote Kibaale District, home to migrants whose poverty is dire even by African standards. The project, which is designed to alleviate the hardship of 250 especially vulnerable households, is being implemented by a local NGO, the Emesco Development Foundation; Bees Abroad's role is to monitor their activities on behalf of the funder, the States of Guernsey, and to offer what help we can.

Many well-intentioned schemes of this kind founder on the harsh realities of working within tight budgets among often demoralised folk in poorly resourced areas. It normally takes great determination and a good deal of ingenious improvisation to keep the ship afloat and on course. I am happy to report, therefore, that our Ugandan partners appear to have made very real progress in the six months since the launch.

They have exceeded their recruitment target, having enlisted 268 villagers to the project, many completely new to beekeeping and a high proportion of them women. Indeed one third of the 25 groups are led by women – a cheering fact.

They have now delivered most of the training modules we helped formulate, including a session on how the villagers can construct top-bar hives cheaply for themselves using sticks instead of planks. So far, 600 such hives have been completed and more are on the way.

The same is true of protective gear: most of the beneficiaries equipped themselves with veils after being shown how these may be made for little



Launching 'Family Pride' honey which is now on sale in local shops and supermarkets



Roy with members of the Emesco project team

cost from such readily available materials as maize sacks. This sort of self-reliance does credit not only to the enterprise of villagers themselves but to Emesco's wise policy of discouraging long-term dependence on external support.

The marketing aspect of the project, so vital to its success, also seems to be in good shape. A processing and packaging centre is up and running and the villagers have already provided it with over half a tonne of honey. Much of this is now in attractively labelled jars on the shelves of stores and supermarkets within the district and further afield in Kampala and elsewhere.

It is typical of Emesco's resourcefulness that they contrived to have the marketing operation inaugurated by a government minister at a well publicised ceremony attended by local dignitaries. At the same event bicycles were presented to the eight 'community-based resource persons', villagers trained to keep the groups motivated and to disseminate information between them.

So, from this distance at least, it all looks very promising. I shall be visiting



Kibaale in November to see for myself what has been accomplished and to try to gauge whether the project's aim – a significant increase in the income of some of the world's poorest citizens – has been achieved.



Veils can be made from readily available maize sacks



Hive-making and (below) the finished product ready for the bees



FUNDRAISING GALORE!

Although Bees Abroad raises the bulk of the money required for projects from funding agencies, we cannot use these sources to pay for what are known as 'core costs'. These include staff resources, publicity, paper, printing, postage, etc. To fund these we are dependent upon the generosity of our supporters and members of the public. Here are reports of several fund-raising initiatives that have contributed small but significant amounts to Bees Abroad, often to the general funds and sometimes for a specific project. We hope they will inspire you to undertake novel fund-raising activities on our behalf.

Thank you to all our supporters. We couldn't do it without you!



CATCHING THE SHOPPERS

On 9 September 2008, shoppers hurrying into Waitrose in Stroud for their weekend shopping were attracted to stop for a moment to read about Bees Abroad.

Brian Durk, Jeff Bee and Sheila Allan were on hand to talk to those who wanted to know more and to collect money from generous shoppers. They collected £184:81 and sold 49 jars of Hartpury Honey from this £1 a jar has been donated to Bees Abroad. This will go towards the Akwaya Beekeeping Project. There's only £14,208 to go to fund the project but even little amounts like this really help.

Waitrose has offered Bees Abroad another collection day next year so if you live locally and want to help, contact Brian (beesdurk@yahoo.co.uk).

KEEP FIT FOR KENYA!

Carbon footprint is one of today's 'in things'. At Bees Abroad we are all too well aware that project leaders have, of necessity, to travel to countries to visit their projects. There are many schemes available to offset carbon emissions – long-life light



Supporters of all ages can raise money for Bees Abroad!



The Cheltenham Racers having a well-earned rest at the end of the day

RUN AND RAISE MONEY

On 22 June, a group of eight Bees Abroad supporters took part in the Cheltenham Circular Challenge to raise funds for a fact-finding trip to assess a potential project in Ghana.

Five completed a half marathon and three a quarter marathon. Together they raised approximately £1,230.

They are planning to do it again next year so, if you are in the area, why not join them on Sunday 14 June 2009?

bulbs, solar-powered cooking and planting a tree.

It is good to know that a natural spin-off from many of the Bees Abroad projects is encouraging the planting of trees. The Nessuit project on the Mau Escarpment in Kenya is an example of where people are being resettled on land that, many years ago, was forest. The need to set up a plant and tree nursery was an obvious addition to the development of beekeeping. but, as usual, the restricting factor was finance.

Mary, the project leader's wife here in the UK, had the opportunity through her gym keep-fit class to organise a sponsored walk of approximately 5 miles around the local Draycote water reservoir. The final total raised £340 which was sufficient to provide hand tools, watering cans and the plants for propagation. This now means any member of this BA project community has access to bee-friendly trees and plants, some of which will provide nuts and fruits.

MARATHON FOR BEES ABROAD

Chris Ballinger from South Gloucestershire Beekeepers' Association has given us £400 from his London Marathon run.

Well done Chris – and many thanks for your generosity!

SOUTHAM CHARITY OF THE YEAR

When Councillor Les Hewer became Town Mayor of Southam in Warwickshire twelve months ago, he chose Bees Abroad as his overseas charity.

Several fund-raising events took place over the year which Mary and John Home were pleased to attend. At the conclusion of Les's year of office, they had the honour of receiving a cheque for £2300. His other charity, the local Air Ambulance, received a similar amount.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Send a unique Christmas Card, designed by Emma Ball, to let your friends know you support Bees Abroad. Just £4.95 for a pack of 10 cards, plus postage and packaging (p&p for 1-2 packs is £1.55 (2nd) or £1.75 (1st). 4 packs is £1.93 or £2.25).

Send Veronica your order by e-mail at info@beesabroad.org.uk and pay via PayPal through the website or send a cheque (payable to 'Bees Abroad') to Bees Abroad, PO Box 2058, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 9AF. Same day despatch!

CLICK THE MOUSE!

You can support Bees Abroad without it costing you, or us, a penny. Use www.everyclick.com as your search engine and every mouse click generates money Bees Abroad. Every click counts!

PATRONS SUPPORTING BEES ABROAD

We are delighted to announce that Bill and Paula Stevens of National Bee Supplies, Eric Hyams of Maisemore Apiaries, Brian Sherriff of BJ Sherriff International and Richard Jones of the International Bee Research Association (IBRA) have agreed to support Bees Abroad by becoming Patrons. Thank you all for your generosity.



Bill and Paula Stevens of National Bee Supplies



Brian Sherriff, with his daughter Anji, of BJ Sherriff International

STOP PRESS!

We have just received the very exciting news that Jimmy Doherty (of the television programme 'Jimmy's Farm' and who recently made a film of honey hunting in Nepal at the same bee cliffs that Bees Abroad has visited) has agreed to become a BA Patron.

Watch this space!

PENNY IN THE POUND FOR BA!



It doesn't matter if you want to fly with our namesake (British Airways – BA) or not. You can support Bees Abroad (BA!) when you book your holiday. Worlds Apart Travel in Cheltenham has generously

agreed to donate a 'penny in the pound' to BA for anyone booking with them.

All you have to do is to contact them to sort out that fabulous trip to an exotic location (or even a business trip to Brussels) and then mention 'Bees Abroad'. Worlds Apart will then note this and, when you have paid the booking in full, send the donation to

BA. The donation will apply to flight costs (excluding airport taxes and fuel surcharges), tour cost or insurance.

Worlds Apart does not deal with the standard package tour operators, but don't let that stop you. If you have an enquiry of this nature, World Apart will pass on the details to one of its sister companies who should be able to help so Bees Abroad will receive the same donation.

If you agree to be included on the Worlds Apart database, you may be contacted via e-mail with its newsletter, but it will not pass these details onto any other companies except its sister companies, Lombard Travel and Grapevine Travel.

BEES ABROAD AT THE SHOWS

Different supporters have been out and about during the summer helping to man the Bees Abroad stand at a number of shows and other events. Particular thanks go to Jeff Bee who has coordinated this presence.

This is yet another way that we can raise the profile of Bees Abroad as well as adding to our funds. We plan to be at a number of shows next year so if you want to help, or maybe you could take some Bees Abroad items to one of your local shows,

please get in touch with Veronica (Tel: 0117 230 0231; e-mail: info@beesabroad.org.uk).

To borrow a slogan from a well-known retailer – 'Every little helps!'



Brian Durk, resplendent in Cameroon dress, at the Royal Show in July



John Home representing Bees Abroad at the Three Counties Show in June

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Bees Abroad gratefully acknowledges the generous support from National Bee Supplies for the production of this Newsletter

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