

Friends of Double Joy

Registered Charity No 1087172

Double Joy Children's Farm
giving orphans a home and education

Newsletter Winter 2019

Postal Edition

Dear friends of Double Joy

I've been delighted to read the following reports and to learn that Double Joy is continuing its wonderful work, and adapting its role to meet the perceived needs of both the children in its care, and the local community.

As always, there are new projects being undertaken which require extra funding, in addition to the steady income we try to provide. (An appeal for floor tiles is on Page 2).

We also have these two colourful Christmas cards for sale (shown below), designed by children of Sheffield Quaker Meeting to raise funds for Double Joy, and for the first time, have Double Joy calendars for sale (details on page 4).

I wish you all good health and much happiness over the Christmas period and the year to follow.

Hilary Hall, Newsletter Editor



'Oh Little Town of Bethlehem'

Christmas cards are available to order at 8 for £5, postage free within UK. All profits will go to Double Joy. Please contact chrisshinde@gmail.com to purchase, specifying your design preference - or some of each if ordering more than one pack.



'While Shepherds Watched'

"Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half sorrow." Swedish proverb

Double Joy Children's Farm, soon entering its 25th year, continues to fulfil a local need in supporting and keeping together sibling orphans whose crisis situation arose through the deaths of both parents by Aids, which is always verified by DJ's own social worker.

Unfortunately, recent media scrutiny has exposed that children in some orphanages worldwide are vulnerable to exploitation or trafficking, and suggested that many children in orphanages may in fact have living parents.

Many significant local people are on the Board of Trustees and Board of Management who support Mary Hinde, Peter Atin (the manager) and the staff in running the orphanage in ways culturally relevant to local needs and adapting to new challenges.

As well as providing a stable home, DJ protects children's inheritances by holding title deeds for any land until the children reach 18 years. DJ integrates locally by being an equal opportunities employer of local people, as well as providing a secure repository for national exam papers, emergency transport for the sick, a centre for learning for local adults, and a health centre and dispensary. It is a forerunner in rain water harvesting and solar power lighting, a builder of water holes for communal use, and an innovator of agricultural and building methods. Additionally it is a route to training opportunities, (one DJ boy went on to become a catholic priest, and a local young woman was sponsored to do her nurse training via FoDJ), and a few academically able children have gone on to university - unimaginable 10 years ago!

DJ continues to adapt, as a policy for supporting orphans within their own families is increasingly preferred. Its current children started local primary schools in February 2019, to encourage more inclusive community living. In the absence of any other local provision, DJ has trained staff to teach local children with special needs and is planning to care for young single mothers and babies too. It was also the designated 'place of safety' for 11 children from families in crisis, last year.

Above all, since the beginning, Double Joy has been a source of hope, life, laughter and inspiration for hundreds of children and adults and is rightly celebrated for this. Thank you all for continuing to give people the chance of a better future. We are proud of Double Joy and its achievements, and so we thank you, our donors, for making all this possible. asante sana. (Thank you everyone.)

Eric Roseden, foster son of Mary Hinde

Manager's Report



We are most grateful for the continuing support our beloved donors give our children and staff to ensure the smooth running of this very worthwhile project. Thank you a thousand times.

This year we had 101 children (56 boys, 45 girls). The number increased from previous years because extra children were brought to us by the Children's Department, including 6 all at once in July!

In November, 17 children in Grade 8 took national exams and moved out, and in January will go on to secondary school.

My thanks also go to our talented and adaptable staff who work long hours for the children's well being, keeping their best interests at the top of their list of aims and objectives.

The children are given an excellent education and the best of health-care. They receive a well balanced diet with three meals a day, housing of a high standard, and clothing, as well as spiritual and social guidance.



I must also thank SHARE Africa*, through Usha Wright, who continue to send financial support to Double Joy every year.

The children are very happy and proud to associate themselves with Double Joy when they go out for different activities.

Thank you all and may God bless you abundantly.

Peter Atin (Manager)

** SHARE Africa (<https://shareafrica.org/>) is a US Organisation (set up by the late Dr Bobbie MacGuffie who visited Double Joy in 1996) and has been an avid supporter ever since. The organisation also runs health centres nearby and finds individual sponsors for orphans. (Ed)*

Treasurer's Report

Our financial outlook towards the end of 2018 was poor and we were forced to limit our funding accordingly. Thanks to concerted efforts by you, our supporters, and extra fundraising measures, the situation has improved and we now send £7,500 (£1,000 extra) per month, as from November 2019. Unfortunately, however, the value of your donations remains downwardly affected by inflation and currency devaluations.

£15,000 Gift Aid was gathered (thank you) and sent in September to cover secondary school and vocational training expenses. As you can see Gift Aiding provides a sizeable chunk of our budget and I encourage everyone who can to register to Gift Aid donations.

£2,370 was donated for Secondary School education in response to the Summer Newsletter appeal. £5,216 was raised by fundraising trustees and £322 donated via PayPal.

Peter Atin has asked for funding for two new projects - painting walls and tiling floors of Masterman Hall (the main meeting hall at Double Joy), and repairing a large concrete water tank which, when full, holds enough water for a whole month's needs.

I thank you for your hard work and generosity in enabling Double Joy to carry on. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas as well as a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Sue Hilliard, Treasurer FoDJ

Christmas Appeal for floor tiles

Would you like to help Double Joy tile the concrete floor of its Main Hall?



The existing concrete floor is easily pitted and hard to keep clean. Ceramic floor tiles are hardwearing, easy to clean and look much more inviting to children and visitors alike. You can see from these photos the difference tiles have made to the children's houses.

Tiles cost £1 each and 1700 are needed. Please help us reach our target. Any extra money raised will buy paint for the walls of the hall.

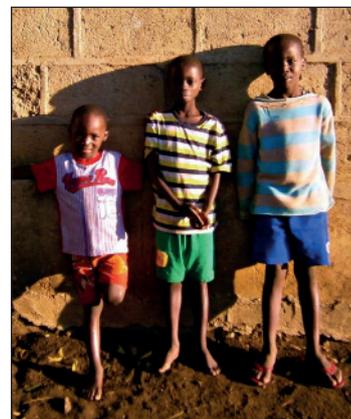


Tiles can be bought by BACS payment labelled 'tiles donation' or by (UK only) cheque posted to:- Sue Hilliard (Treasurer, address on Page 4) with a covering note or PayPal payment via the website.



This delightful and fun photo shows Double Joy residents displaying shopping bags made from wonderfully vibrant fabrics purchased from the local market.

Sales of such bags in the UK raised £184 during 2019 (Ed)



Article by a Double Joy boy

My life at home compared to this one at Double Joy.

My life at home was not good like this one at Double Joy because at home I was not getting enough food. I was going without food sometimes for 3 days. We did not have a good house; it was small and leaking so when it was raining we could not sleep. After my mother and father died I found my life at home very difficult. I was sent to graze the cows and goats, and if cows were lost I was punished. By this time I was just about 7 years old.

I was treated like a donkey because when there was any work to do I was the one told to do it. If I said I was tired I could be caned so I was forced to finish the work. If I was sick there was no one to give me medicine so I was just in the hands of God. At home when people came to look at me, some said, 'instead of suffering I should just die'. My grandmother was as old as the sun and could not do anything.

My life here in Double Joy is very enjoyable. I have friends to play with and I can use my talents the way God wants me to, which I couldn't at home. I thank God that here at Double Joy I have enough clothes. We have good shelter and we eat every day.

I want to work hard in class so that I may join secondary school, and after finishing I may go to university. If I become rich I would like to build an orphanage home like this one - and I would like to be a doctor.

Thankyou, I am 15 years old and in grade 8. (Name withheld)

Fundraising Concert

Thanks and congratulations go to our friends Pauline and Rob Stannard who recently organised yet another highly successful concert in their home town of Hull. This is their modest report of their latest venture. Ed

Last year we had such a fantastic response to David Barton's concert that we just had to ask him back again. David usually plays as part of a duo "Two Pianos" with a 4-piece backing band but for our more intimate concerts he plays piano and sings with just a drummer – the fantastic Alan Drever-Smith. What a fabulous sound they produce together with songs from the rock'n'roll era. The full house lapped it up and gave the band a standing ovation. A fun night enjoyed by all and about £1,250 raised for Double Joy. Thanks must also go to our small team of volunteers who helped the event run so smoothly. *Pauline and Rob*



Please send reports, with photos if available, of your fund-raising activities to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the next newsletter. Your ideas might just inspire someone else!

More Fundraising Activities

I want to let you know about the activities we have created in my school to fund raise and support Double Joy. We have worked with Merit First a council which joins secondary schools together in a global movement. It focuses on Sustainable Development Goals tackling everyday problems that can be improved with our help, such as poverty, education, life under water, and many more. Students choose for themselves, their year group and whole school, goals which inspire and interest them. We then complete activities which earn points on a global school leader board.

At Kings, one of the SDGs is poverty, so we chose to focus on Double Joy Children's Farm. We thought Double Joy was a great way for us to improve the lives of others and give to those less fortunate than ourselves. We wish to make a difference in any way we can. Over the summer term we organised a Summer Fair to be held on the last day of term. This was filled with lots of stalls including a cake sale, an obstacle course, a lucky dip, a raffle and even a chance to tape a teacher to a wall! Everyone really enjoyed the day and we managed to raise £600 to go towards money for a new water tank for Double Joy. We have many more events and fundraising activities planned to continue to raise more money to support Double Joy and look forward to speaking to the children in the future.

Annabel Townsend – The King's School Macclesfield



January

Double Joy Calendars for Sale

Mary Alston has compiled 12 Double Joy children's paintings into a 2020 calendar to sell for Friends of Double Joy.

Calendars cost £5 each (+ £1.50 p&p in UK)

To purchase please contact:-

doublejoy1994@gmail.com or write to
Friends of Double Joy

24 Knowe Hill Crescent, Lancaster LA1 4JY



August

Do you still need a postal copy of this newsletter, or are you by now able to receive it by email to reduce our printing and postal costs? We know that some of our supporters do not have access to email but are always glad to reduce our admin expenses where we can. If you can now receive your newsletter by email please be kind enough to inform Eric Roseden.

Also please inform Eric **if you have a change of address and/or e-mail address**

Please take a few moments to visit our website www.double-joy.org.uk for latest news and more photos!

All donations for Double Joy should be sent to the Treasurer -

Mrs Susan Hilliard, 40 Downside Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7SD

Tel: (01258) 454415

Cheques (UK only) should be made payable to 'Friends of Double Joy

To pay by BACS please email Susan at special_lily31@yahoo.co.uk

Bank details: The Co-operative Bank, Stockport, Sort Code 08-92-99, acc No. 65063707

Ready to print **STANDING ORDER FORMS** for making **regular donations to Double Joy**

and Gift Aid Declaration forms, are available to download from the website. No gift is too small. (Ed)

PayPal donations

Anyone who has a PayPal account, which is free to set up and very secure, is able to donate to Friends of Double Joy via the 'Donate' button on the website at www.double-joy.org.uk. This allows donors to contribute from anywhere in the world. If you are struggling to negotiate this page, please contact Eric at doublejoy1994@gmail.com and he will do his best to help.

Friends of Double Joy (Reg Charity No 1087172)

supports Double Joy Children's Farm, a home and school for children orphaned by AIDS:
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