



A carpentry kit for £30 given to a disabled self-help group gives them the chance to earn a living and the respect of their community.

TEAM Changes

Since John Fox's sad death last October, Rob Levine has been both Chairman and acting General Manager. At a Trustee meeting on the 14th September, Rob resigned as Chairman in light of the governance and practical challenges of holding both roles. As Vice Chairman, Keith Irvine duly stepped up to the role of Chairman. The Trustees are pleased to announce that Rob has agreed to stay on as General Manager on a part-time basis.



Keith Irvine

On behalf of the Trustees, Keith expressed his gratitude for the excellent guidance Rob has provided as Chairman and for building an effective Trustee team.

Rob said "I am delighted with this development and look forward to continuing to work with Keith and the Trustees, as well as the great team of volunteers and employees we have, to help Workaid continue to go from strength to strength. After a career in the city and after nine years with Workaid, it's still uplifting every day to come into a place which does good in so many ways."

Another change to the Trustee body is that Jane Bucknall has stepped down so that she can devote more time to her family. We wish her all the best, and thank her for her considerable input to Workaid.

'BIG GIVE'

to help prisoners in Zambia

Workaid is again taking part in the 'Big Give', aiming to raise £13,000 to cover the costs of the refurbishment and shipment (container, taxes and everything else) of enough tools to ensure 1,000 current or ex-offenders in Zambia can gain certified vocational training skills. This will reduce the chance of them re-offending, and, as with so much else Workaid does, the impact will spread far beyond the initial beneficiaries. We will supply projects identified by our partner in Lusaka, Emmanuel Zulu, and will be provided with updates on their progress as we go.

The **Big Give** is a fantastic philanthropic organisation which helps a wide range of charities to raise money. We have already raised £3,250 in pledges from generous

supporters, and one of the individual Champions at the **Big Give** is supporting us with the same amount again- that's £6,500 already! If we can raise another £3,250 in the period from the 28th November to the 5th December, the **Big Give** will match it, which will take us to our £13,000 target! To find out more, have a look at www.thebiggive.org.uk and search for Workaid.



VOLUNTEER Focus: Benji's Story

A familiar, friendly face around the Workaid premises, Benjamin (Benji as he likes to be called) lives with Pat and Trevor in Amersham, through a Shared Lives Scheme. He lives with them as a family and joins in everything they do. He is 28 years old.

Benji was previously unable to travel on his own, but wanted to do something useful away from home. He applied to volunteer at Workaid and was accepted. This gave Benji a reason to start to be able to travel independently.

Benji looks forward to his shifts at Workaid each Monday and Tuesday. He gets himself ready and leaves the house just before 9am after saying he is on his way to work. He walks to the bus stop in town and catches the Number 1 bus which takes him into Chesham. Here he will usually pop into W H Smith to buy himself a drink and then continue his walk to the Workaid workshop. Benji has since increased his independence through his volunteering at Workaid and comes back home in the

afternoon, usually saying he has worked on plugs, drill bits or generally helped Barbara Lambert. He enjoys the camaraderie of being in an environment with a variety of characters and often buys a newspaper so he can talk about football, particularly Chelsea, the team he supports and loves. Benji is very happy that Workaid is now a very important part of his life. Hopefully this will continue and help him develop more skills including listening to instructions and helping others.



REPORT: Project Updates from Kenya and Uganda

Over the past few months, Workaid has received a number of updates from projects it supports in Kenya and Uganda. These projects have benefited from the refurbished tools and equipment Workaid has provided and have used them in vocational training courses within their communities, with positive outcomes. Below are some examples of what our partnership has meant for various beneficiaries in East Africa.

Netanyi Carpentry Workshop, Kenya AGAPEWO Ministry – Jinja, Uganda

Container Benjamin KEN14-143

Founded in 2001 and currently run by Thomas Onyii Ogembo, **Netanyi Carpentry Workshop** in Kenya is a project which aims to enable its trainees to acquire vocational training skills so as to become self-sufficient and alleviate poverty within their communities. The main beneficiaries of the project are youths and orphans. Self-financed, the project provides its training courses to the community free of charge. Currently training is offered in carpentry, tailoring and welding. Workaid has been in partnership with **Netanyi Carpentry Workshop** since 2015, sending them refurbished goods such as sewing machines and carpentry tools. Thomas recently got in touch to update Workaid on their progress, writing that “training is going on well with the trainees gaining new knowledge each and every day through these machines that you provided to us. These machines have helped in easing the tasks that we handle daily. The trainees are grateful and are delighted to thank your group for the gift of these machines.”

Mochoge, a trainee, reflects on his experience within the project, “These machines you gave to **Netanyi Carpentry Workshop** have been of great help to me since they have helped me get enough knowledge that can help me in serving the community at large. For instance, I had no parents to take me to study these skills but now am happy I have these skills free of charge from the **Netanyi Workshop**.”

Pictured below is Mochoge working on one of our sewing machines, surrounded by fellow trainees.



A fairly new project started in 2012, **AGAPEWO** Ministry in Jinja, Uganda focuses on the livelihoods of women and orphans and the community they live in. The project is currently funded by the community itself, as well as by external donations from well-wishers. Their current activities include tailoring, knitting and brickmaking, averaging out over 20 hours a week worth of training. As a result of this training, individuals are able to acquire paid jobs within production work in the community. Workaid’s collaboration with **AGAPEWO** Ministry saw the delivery of portable sewing machines, fabrics and various other equipment for knitting and servicing. Benjamin Mulindwa, the project’s co-ordinator, expressed the joy of trainees on receiving new equipment, having struggled in previous instances to secure local assistance for the project.

Pictured below are **AGAPEWO** Ministry trainees with a shipment from Workaid.



SPEAKERS

Bill Duperouzel, Workaid's former CEO and a current trustee, has taken on the role of Coordinator for the Workaid Speaker's Team from Norman Rhodes. Norman, a volunteer for seventeen years in the Sewing Machine section, has recently retired as Coordinator, having been invited by Bill to establish a Workaid Speaker's Team back in 2010. And now, it is Bill who has accepted the baton from Norman to carry on his good work. Workaid is very grateful to Norman for all his efforts over the last seven years, during which time over 130 speaking engagements were carried out, of which Norman personally fulfilled 41! Well done, Norman!

The Speaker's Team is very valuable in promoting awareness of Workaid, seeking donations and recruiting new volunteers. On average, £1,500 is raised annually, having peaked in 2014 at £2,900. Under Bill's stewardship, the Speaker's Team comprises **Tom Campbell, Liz Elliot, Judi Fisher, Roger Lane, Mike Lawton, Norman Rhodes, Rosa Maria Welsh and Moyra Zaman**. In addition, Ray Newton and Paul Lynham provide valuable support in the office. Typically, the audiences for speaking engagements include: Rotary Clubs, churches of all denominations, Mothers' Union, Women's Institute, Men's Groups, U3A, Outreach Groups

and various Clubs such as Probus. If you know of a group within a 20 mile radius of Chesham who would like to request a speaking engagement, we would be pleased to hear from them.

Email admin@workaid.org



Everyone at Workaid was excited to learn that Bill was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM), in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours, "For services to charity and to the community of Bedfordshire" (where he lives). Bill received his medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire on 18th September and has been invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace with his wife Janet in May 2018! Congratulations Bill, we're so proud of you!

More News - the Hive and the Blog

The newly refurbished Hive was officially opened at the beginning of September this year. It is now a smart, bright and



cheerful working space for Workaid projects including craft sessions. Around fifty visitors attended the celebrations and it was a lively, fun morning. This latest project at Workaid was financed by a trust fund, who wants to remain anonymous. We cannot thank them enough.

For more information on Craft activities in the Hive visit our website.

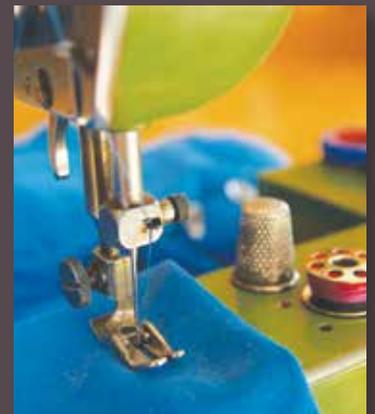
"When I was asked to look at the 'Blog', I have to admit I was a bit horrified. Did this make me a blogger, was I blogging? I had no idea – I sometimes get a bit of a phobia about technology! However, I did go on to the site and was amazed. Full of really interesting and up to date information, it showcases all that is Workaid and more. There are lots of great photos of all the activities and projects that the charity is involved in and how, even if you are not a volunteer, you can get involved in by attending courses to learn a new skill or donating tools and materials. **Take the plunge!**" - Pauline Naman, *volunteer*

Click on www.workaid.org/blog and prepare to be surprised!

BIRONGO self-help group – Kisii, Kenya

Birongo Self Help Group, founded in 2006 in Kisii, Kenya, is a project that aims to alleviate poverty within its community by training its youth population in various vocational skills, such as carpentry, joinery, tailoring, knitting and masonry. Trainees attend the skills training on a full time basis, and are further helped in setting up a business upon completion of their training.

Project manager James Ndege got in touch with us to share the sentiments of one of the project's trainees, Monda Peterson, who writes "through your grateful assistance with (tools and equipment), we are happy that our work has been rapidly doubled and increased the number of students joining our group. Also many who have been trained in the surrounding communities have progressively changed their background of living and taken all their children to school. This is because they have created employments/businesses to enable them pay school fees, and as well as for their daily bread!"



WORKAID NEEDS YOU - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Whether you are out of work, retired or between jobs, come and join us as a volunteer. Hours are flexible to suit your lifestyle, so come and have a chat – we would love to meet you and introduce you to our friendly team.

Paula Watkins *I only discovered Workaid a couple of years ago when I started coming to the shop and as I got chatting I grew more fascinated each time I came. I then volunteered to teach a demo session and had a tour around. I was captivated by the whole story.*

Wendy Marsh *I was introduced to Workaid about 5 years ago by my dear friend of 20 years, Barbara Cooke. She had mentioned Workaid to me saying that she is a volunteer, but it didn't mean anything to me then – it does now!*

How can you help?

- Refurbishing tools and equipment (get your hands dirty in the the biggest workshop you will ever see!)
- Refurbishing sewing & knitting machines (learn new skills)
- In our Workaid shop (meet new people, make new friends)
- In our office (use your skills)

Help us to help others!

Still unsure?

Have a look at our website www.workaid.org for more information

CRAFTS OPEN DAY

Saturday 2nd December 2017, 10am - 3pm

Everyone most welcome - free entry

An opportunity to see artists at work, have a go at some of the crafts, learn what Workaid is really about, start your Christmas shopping with unusual hand-made gifts, see the newly refurbished crafts room, visit the shop, meet other crafts people over coffee and mince pies... have a go at the raffle!

ARTISTS IN ACTION:

Anna Pool - Decoupage & Funky Furniture (Facebook: Anna's Funky Furniture Store)

Chris Pemberton & Dee Hood - Beautiful Christmas Baubles

Isabel Clements - Art Journaling (isabelclements@msn.com)

Isobel Fletcher de Tellez - Tunisian Crochet

Jane Farmery - Sewing Machine Tips & Techniques

Jo Laurie - Drawing Animals and Cartoons

Lynne Benest - Stained Glass

Janet Edmonds - Simple Print (www.janetedmonds.co.uk)

Liz Smith - Christmas Crafts

Marilyn Pipe - Textiles with Mixed Media (www.marilynpipe.co.uk)

Mary Gamester - Fun with Transfer Painting (www.mary-gamester.co.uk)

Mary Pomeroy - Drawing and Painting

Paula Watkins - Textile Treasures

(www.frecklesandflowersgirl.blogspot.co.uk)

Richard Box - Drawing with a sewing machine needle

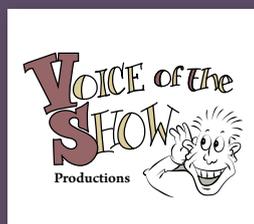
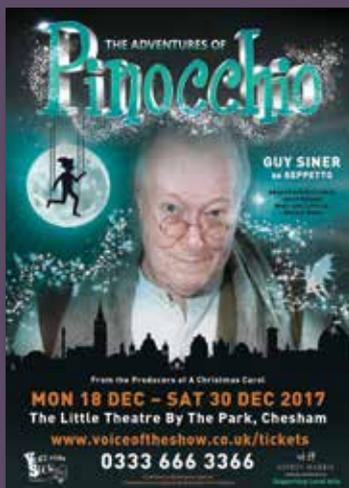
(www.richardbox.co.uk)

We all look forward very much to seeing you on the day. No need to book, just turn up. Bring your friends and neighbours too!



PARTNERSHIP WITH VOICE OF THE SHOW

This festive season, Chesham is being treated to another charming tale from production company Voice of the Show, bringing to life the classic story of **Pinocchio**. Starring Guy Siner (from 'Allo, 'Allo) as Geppetto, and following a sold out 2016 show of 'A Christmas Carol', this year's offering is one not to be missed! The show runs from Monday 18th December to Saturday 30th December and is being performed at The Little Theatre By The Park. Workaid is the chosen charity beneficiary and will benefit from a proportion of all programme sales: • www.voiceoftheshow.co.uk/tickets • 0333 666 3366



GIVE A GIFT TO CHANGE A LIFE

Christmas is just around the corner, wouldn't it be lovely if you could show a loved one you were thinking of them AND also give someone who desperately needs it, the chance to change their life forever.

With a PRACTICAL GIFT you can do just that:

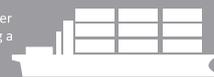
HABERDASHERY KIT: £10

Just £10 allows us to supply a haberdashery kit to help a women's co-operative establish their business.



SHIP A BOX: £15

£15 helps us to cover the cost of shipping a life-changing kit to those in need.



KNITTING MACHINE: £25

One machine enables a group of women to set up a business making school jumpers.



SEWING MACHINE: £25

Refurbish and ship a sewing machine, enabling an AIDS widow to start a business to support her family.



"It is my dream after finishing my course I will open my own workshop. This will help me to employ myself and my relatives. Being told that our centre is going to receive a container of various metal works and wood works equipment is very exciting news ever heard! God bless you more and more!"

Please go to our website www.workaid.org and follow the link from "Resources"