

2020, A TOUGH YEAR BUT A POSITIVE FUTURE

This Newsletter looks back over the year 2020 at the Trust and at the Anita Goulden Home. It is hardly necessary to say that, marked as it was by a global pandemic, it was a difficult one, but it was especially sad for the Trust and the Home who in the last few months have both lost people important to us.

Annabel Buchan, who died in December, was one of the founders of the Trust and was for many years its driving force and, to many donors and supporters, its very embodiment. Annabel was, until last year, the only Administrator the Trust had ever had, and it was typical of her that, despite her worsening condition, she kept the Trust running impeccably until the administration could be handed over to the successor she had found. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that the Trust would not have survived for the thirty years since its founding without Annabel's energy and tenacity. We are enormously grateful to her.

In Piura, quite early in the pandemic, Covid-19 claimed the life of Rolando "Rolo" Moscol, one of those long

serving employees that had worked directly with Anita Goulden and who was well known to all who visited from the UK or volunteered at the Home. In the middle of the year, Amabilia Arellano, Treasurer of the local Committee, succumbed

to cancer, and in September Ronald "Rony" Berriu, the oldest resident of the Home, who had been taken in as a child by Anita Goulden some 35 years ago, sadly passed away. They will all be much missed.

Peru is among the countries worst hit by Covid-19 and the city of Piura has been gravely affected. The spread of the virus, and the quarantine and curfew arrangements put in place to control it, have caused enormous practical difficulties for the Home, aggravated by internal management problems that are still being worked through. Despite this, thanks to the great sacrifices made by the staff and the efforts of the, all volunteer, local Committee, the Home never faltered in its essential role of providing care and therapy. Without this care, life would scarcely be possible for its, often severely, disabled residents.

They and we are extremely grateful to all our donors for making their work possible.

All of us hope for a better year in 2021.

David Thomas,
Chairman of Trustees



Rolando Moscol - seen here with resident Jose Luis

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

The Trust had a busy year in 2020. Trustees kept in regular contact but, like every other organisation, meetings had to be held online.

There were no changes in the board of Trustees, but the Trust did take on a new Administrator. When Annabel

Buchan's health made it clear that she would need to give up the role, we were fortunate to have more than one candidate to replace her and we are grateful to those who put their names forward. Katharine Stansfeld was eventually appointed, due both

to her family connection to Annabel and to the convenience of being resident in London.

The change in administrative arrangements required a good deal of preparation. Despite frequent denials of understanding anything

Annabel Buchan MBE



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of one of our founding Trustees, Annabel Buchan, who passed away peacefully at home with her family shortly before Christmas. Following her cancer diagnosis a year earlier she showed nothing but resilience and strength, continuing to act as administrator until June whilst progressively handing over to her great-niece Katharine.

Annabel first became aware of Anita Goulden in 1989 when she read an article by Nicholas Shakespeare about Anita's work in Peru. She immediately

signed up as an enthusiastic helper and when the Anita Goulden Trust was set up in 1991, to manage the increasing number of donations coming in, Annabel was asked to become the Administrator and a Trustee. Annabel eventually went over to Peru in May 1995, and again in October 2006, to see everyone's hard work for herself and returned with some beautiful photographs as well as new dedication and commitment to see the Anita Goulden Home thrive. Her great passion and her perseverance helped the Trust successfully overcome financial challenges and in New Year's Honours List of 2004, Annabel was awarded a much deserved MBE 'for services to disadvantaged children in Peru', something she was immensely proud of.

Although she didn't have any children of her own, Annabel has always been known as the 'Cool Aunt' to her 11 nieces and nephews and 25 great nieces and nephews, creating lasting memories between her London home and cottage in Norfolk. She had many loves in her life, her husband Iain and their enjoyment for travel, her Norfolk Terriers and her notable talent for needlework. Whilst lockdown last year brought around new challenges, her sense of humour prevailed and she made quite a name for herself in Bronsart Road hosting garage (social distanced) tea parties.

Annabel will be greatly missed by all of her family and many friends but her legacy will continue to live on through the Anita Goulden Trust and the lives of many children to which she helped to give better futures.



Annabel in Piura

about technology, Annabel had progressively moved all the Trust's processes to online systems, allowing direct access by other Trustees and making the Trust much less susceptible to potential interruptions in service. As well as handling a prodigious volume of work, Annabel had provided the registered address for the Trust, and this has had to be changed. The new address, telephone number and email address are shown at the end of this Newsletter.

The Trust continued to invest time in its website, making better use of the News blog to post up-to-date information as it was provided by the Home. We encourage you to follow us on www.anitagoulden.org.

We kept in touch with the local Committee in Piura, who informed us regularly about how the pandemic was impacting their activities, and the actions that they were taking. They have done an excellent job of developing community support in Piura and local donations in kind now meet almost all their requirements of food, medicines and supplies. This has continued despite the no doubt serious impacts of the pandemic on the donors. Nevertheless, the Home has been and still remains almost totally dependent on the Trust to fund salaries, taxes and other expenses that have to be paid in cash. In turn, the Trust depends almost entirely on your regular donations for the money it transfers to the Home as, unlike some other charitable trusts, we do not hold an important capital sum to provide income. We are most grateful to all of you that have been making donations, in some cases over many years.

The Trustees do aim to keep an amount in reserve sufficient to insulate the Home from fluctuations in the monthly flow of donations, and to give them some assurance that funding can continue over a reasonable time horizon. Recently, these reserves had fallen to a worryingly low level, but 2020 was a better year financially. Legacies made an important contribution to this, and we do encourage you to consider mentioning the Trust when you make or update your Will.

NEWS FROM THE HOME

The Trust is greatly indebted to Carmen Olga Palma, Chair of the Peruvian charitable organisation that operates the Home, and Anita Mollet, adviser to the Home and the Trust, for taking time and effort to keep us informed throughout last year despite the enormous challenges they have had to face just to keep the Home operating.

The year began with residents returning to the Home following the holiday period. The Home encourages those residents who have families to have more regular contact with them and many had stayed with their families over the holidays, enhancing family ties as well as allowing staff of the Home to take time off.

January saw residents starting therapy in a new Centre not far from the Home and enjoying the swimming pool at a local rehabilitation centre. Also, that month, the previous Manager of the Home came to the end of her contract and a new Manager was appointed. When the Covid-19 epidemic emerged, Peru soon imposed some of the strictest measures of any country to control the spread of the virus. All airports and public transport were closed. Most shops were closed and only some food stores were left operating. The lockdown eventually lasted until the end of June. A total curfew from 4pm until 6am was decreed and outside those hours, only younger adults could go out to buy food or visit the pharmacy. Older adults were not permitted to leave their homes. This included both Carmen Olga Palma and Anita Mollet. From that point on, their contact with the Home was limited to telephone and the monitoring cameras that had been installed. Hospitals, which the Home would normally use to provide medical care and attention to residents, were operating at or near full capacity and only treating emergencies. Local Health Centres were contaminated by Covid-19.

At the start of the lockdown three of the residents were taken home by their families, leaving fifteen at the Home. At that point, the Home was receiving almost nothing of the usual local donations in kind of food,



Covid-19 precautions

medicines and supplies. Fortunately, we hear that they have since gradually returned to normal levels. The government also resumed the daily provision of some milk and food to the Home.

The Home was put into isolation and all possible measures to avoid infection by the virus were taken. A large part of residents' quality of life had been regular outings and visits from volunteers. These, of course, had to be stopped and have remained so until now. It must be very hard for the residents, especially those with cognitive difficulties, to understand what is happening.

The staff responded extraordinarily well to the crisis. Working hours had to be changed to accommodate curfew restrictions, with nursing staff initially doing 24-hour shifts, from 7am to 7am. Other staff worked from 7am to 2pm. Working hours have subsequently been adapted as the situation has required. There were difficulties with supply of medicines during the worst of the pandemic because the hospitals were giving priority to

Covid-19 and did not have some of the drugs needed by the children. The Manager managed to buy some provisions of neurological drugs for the residents without them having to go to the surgery.

Workers over 60 were considered elderly under the new regulations and could stay at home whilst still being paid their salary. The Home had three employees in that category. Sadly, one of them, support staff member Rolo Moscol, died from Covid-19 in mid-May. Under government guidelines he had stopped working on 1 April and was staying at home.

The Ministry of Health came to the Home to administer so-called rapid tests to all staff and residents. There were no cases among the residents, but 8 out of 15 personnel tested positive, all asymptomatic cases, and returned home to isolate. Four people were hired on temporary contracts to replace some of the eight and shifts were changed to 24hs, followed by two days off, to ensure less circulation of people and less traffic in and out of the Home. Less travel and less risk of infection was well received by the staff. A doctor visited the Home regularly to check the residents and do some tests. This help was provided by the local government at no cost.

A second wave of infection arrived in July, with even more cases than at the previous peak in May. The staff of the Home who had tested positive



Baptism Ceremony

for the virus returned to work after their quarantine. They were followed up with testing both by the Ministry of Health and the Home. All staff use PPE and there are strict hygiene protocols in place.

Very sadly, the Treasurer of the local Committee, Sra. Amabilia Arellano, died from the cancer that she had been fighting for some time. It had been thought that her condition was improving but it had worsened under the difficult circumstances brought about by the pandemic.

At the end of September, we heard from Anita Mollet the sad news that Rony, the oldest of the residents, had died. Rony came to Anita Goulden with his sister Cindy, both abandoned when very young. He had quite severe quadriplegia as the consequence of infantile cerebral palsy. To address his difficulty in swallowing his food, he had recently had an operation to implant a peritoneal feeding tube. In years past he had had repeated crises, often spending weeks in hospital. He had lived several years more than the medical prognosis.

During this difficult period, relations between the Manager and Committee broke down, with the Committee losing confidence in her abilities as some administrative tasks were being neglected, and the Manager reporting the Home she led to the local Health authorities for having out of date and



Chocolatada

otherwise spoiled food stored on the premises. She also made this public in the local media. The consequent official inspection confirmed that there was expired food and the Home was required to improve food storage areas and its processes for disposal of spoiled food. The local Committee confirmed that at no point was spoiled food given to the residents but was stored for safe disposal at a later date. As a result of the breach of trust, the local Committee decided to terminate the Manager's contract and to contract professional help to handle administration and finance.

In December, and in light of the exceptionally difficult times they are passing through, the Trust made an additional modest donation to the Home to enable them to do something to brighten the lives of the residents and staff. They have sent us some photographs of the "chocolatada", a traditional Peruvian way to celebrate the Christmas season.

SPREAD THE WORD

When you have read this newsletter you might like to pass it on to your neighbours or friends who would be interested in hearing about the Trust and its work in Piura. Further copies can be obtained from the address below.

WILLS

We benefit greatly from legacies so do consider mentioning the Trust when you make or update your Will.

GIFT AID

UK taxpayers can download a Gift Aid form from the Donate page of our website.

You can also donate via the website. Our arrangement with JustGiving makes sending donations very easy.

Please let the Administrator know if your income tax circumstances change, which might affect Gift Aid donations.



Rony