

2021 – A YEAR OF GOOD PROGRESS AT THE HOME

This Newsletter looks back at 2021, another year marked by the Covid pandemic, but one in which good progress was achieved in both the Anita Goulden Home and the Trust. When the last Newsletter was published, a year ago, we were full of hope that the vaccination programme, then just beginning, would bring an end to the Covid pandemic and allow our lives to return to normality. It is hardly necessary to say that those hopes were disappointed. Restrictions on movement and social contacts continued in the UK throughout 2021. In Peru, meanwhile, tight restrictions did not prevent that country from suffering repeated waves of infection and recording the highest number of Covid deaths per

head of population in the world. For the Trust, despite the inconvenience of trustees being often unable to meet face to face, the new Administrator has successfully taken the reins and new operational arrangements are now almost fully in place. In Peru, disruption, caused both by the virus itself and the measures taken to control it, has made operation of the Home difficult and delayed all the many actions of the local Committee that require the involvement of the Peruvian authorities. Nevertheless, thanks to the tremendous commitment and efforts of staff and local Committee members, the Home has suffered no interruption to the care and treatment of its residents and a new Committee has both taken

charge of governance of the Home and successfully installed a new Manager to run it.

In Peru, as in the UK, normal economic activity is slowly returning and, as it does, local donors are again supplying the Home at no cost with a substantial part of its requirements for food, supplies and medicines. The Home is, however, still wholly dependent on the Trust and on you, our donors, for the cash income it must have to pay salaries and taxes and to purchase any of its essential needs not met by local donations in kind.

They and we are immensely grateful for your continued support.

David Thomas
Chairman of Trustees



The children

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

Since losing Annabel Buchan, the first and until her death in late 2020, the only Administrator of the Trust, we have had to master all the systems and processes that she had installed and managed so competently over thirty years. This has been no small task and I should like here to pay tribute to Katharine Stansfeld, the new Administrator whom Annabel introduced to us, for the outstanding job she has done of organising the Trust's affairs and keeping them operating so effectively.

There were no changes or additions to the board of Trustees last year and there are now just four of us, compared with a minimum number of three and a maximum of nine specified in the terms of the Trust. We would very much like to add at least one additional Trustee, to make the board more robust and to bring different experience and insights to our discussions. We shall be taking steps to try to identify possible candidates. Trustees stayed in regular communication throughout the last year, mostly via email, and there were three formal Trustees' meetings, held online. We have also stayed in regular contact with the Committee of the Home in Piura and with Anita Mollet, their long-serving adviser and past collaborator of Anita Goulden herself.

Once again in 2021, as we have often done, we sent a modest additional donation to the Home at Christmas to help them pay for a celebration for the residents and gift baskets of goods for the staff, as you may see in the photographs.

We do take seriously our responsibility to our supporters to oversee the proper use of their donations and one way of doing that has been through regular visits to the Home by a Trustee or another person representing us. For the past two years this has been impossible because of Covid, but as travel is now reopening, we are in discussion with a Peruvian lady living in Spain who we hope might visit on our behalf in 2022 and report back to us. The Trust has continued to invest time in its website, making better use



Christmas baskets for staff

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The economy in Peru has been heavily hit by the pandemic and this put a heavy strain on its people and communities, who had to cope with both health and economic emergencies.

Against this background, and despite the economy resuming growth in 2021, it doesn't come as a surprise that the Peruvian currency, the Sol, devalued against the dollar by almost 15% between January and early October 2021. This was followed by some partial recovery by mid-January, in good part due to Central Bank action, with higher interest rates and higher liquidity reserves imposed on banks. This has been reflected, as in many other countries, in inflationary pressures that will impose higher

operating costs on the Home.

On the other hand, our donations are mostly Sterling denominated, which helps to compensate the increase in costs. Although with big swings during the year, the current level of Sterling against the Dollar ended 2021 very similar to the rate at the beginning of the year.

We therefore managed to maintain the same value in Dollar terms of our regular transfers to the Home which, coupled with the depreciation of the Sol gave the Home some financial relief, and allowed them to cope with the reduced level of local donations and to focus on the care of the residents.

The donations that we receive allow us to maintain a regular flow of funds to

the Home, and to a great extent mitigate the financial challenges and fluctuations in fortunes that they may otherwise have. We are grateful to all our donors for their generosity.

As the economy in Peru hopefully continues growing, and the disruption caused by the pandemic fades away, we do expect that local donations in Peru can fully recover at some point, which will be a signal that the worst is definitively behind us.

As always, we continue in contact with the Committee of the Home to ensure that our funds are being effectively used in the care of the children, and we can continue supporting them in the humanitarian activity that they have been carrying on since the Home's foundation.

Marcelo Scenna
Treasurer

NEWS FROM THE HOME

When Covid hit, a small number of children were taken from the Home by their families and the number of residents at the start of 2021 was fourteen, compared to a capacity of twenty. There were no further departures during the year and the same fourteen residents remain. Life under Covid has been difficult for the children. The regular outings that they normally enjoy have had to be abandoned. Visits to families have stopped and visits by families severely curtailed. Some interaction with families and volunteers has been possible only at a distance, across the Home's perimeter fence. All this must have been very hard for the children to understand.



Covid precautions

The Bicentennial of the Independence of Peru, at the end of July, was celebrated across the country, and the event was marked in the Home, with residents dressed in period costume. Some photographs of the occasion are included here.

The staff, both nurses, therapists, and support workers, have shown great dedication and adaptability and have maintained without interruption both the day-to-day care of residents and their physical and mental therapies. This was a considerable achievement given that the Home must be staffed



Peru Bicentennial at the Home

twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week, and restrictions on movement limited when staff were allowed to travel between home and work. These same restrictions on movement have meant that there was some reduction in visits by volunteer medical professionals, but these have now resumed, and emergency medical care was always accessible either at the Home or in local clinics. In June, health ministry staff came to the Home to administer first doses of Covid vaccine to the four adult residents, returning subsequently to give second doses.

At the start of last year, the Home was being run by temporary manager, following the dismissal, in difficult circumstances, of the previous full-time Manager. Adding to the difficulty of the situation, the outgoing Manager had both contested the termination of her contract and reported the Home to the health authorities for having poor food storage arrangements and spoiled food in stock. An inspection confirmed the problems, and the Home was instructed to take remedial action, which was promptly done. The effects of Covid on the working of the public authorities meant that the Home had to wait a long time to have the contract termination upheld, the improvements

in food storage facilities approved, and the Committee cleared of any fault. In the middle of dealing with these critical matters, the Committee's two-year term of office came to an end, and they were obliged to arrange the election of a new Committee.

It is to the great credit of Sra. Carmen Olga Palma, the outgoing Committee Chair, that all these challenges were confronted, and new officers appointed, with ninety percent attendance at the online general meeting of members of the Association that owns the Home. We at the Trust are delighted that Sra. Carmen Olga, whilst not permitted to hold a formal position in the new Committee, will stay closely involved in an advisory role. We were highly impressed by the profile, commitment, and organisation of the new Committee members when we met them online. The new Chair, Sra. Lola Santivanez, is returning to a role that she held some years ago, so she knows the Home and its work well. Among the first actions of the new Committee was the appointment of a professional, full-time Manager to run the Home. She has business qualifications, and we hear that she has started well and seems happy in the role.

TRUSTEES

an appreciation and would you like to be one?

No charitable organisation can do its work properly – or even survive – without a group of committed people to keep its origins and aims in mind and do their best to carry out its objectives.

The Anita Goulden Trust has been helping children with disabilities in Peru for more than thirty years and has been a registered charity since 1991. To keep going, it depends principally on three things; the inspiration of the life and work of Anita Goulden, the help of those who support and donate, and its trustees. These newsletters often rightly express our gratitude to you, our readers and supporters. This time I give a word of thanks and appreciation also to my fellow trustees. All are unpaid volunteers and collectively they have enabled this small charity to survive, longer I suspect than its founders

could have hoped, and made possible also the survival of the Home that provides an irreplaceable source of shelter, care, and treatment to its often severely disabled residents.

Now that there is a vacancy, would you like to be considered for appointment as a Trustee? Of course, it would be of enormous value if you happened to have some experience of working with children and young people with disabilities, as would some knowledge of Spanish, but the key requirement is nothing more than that you feel the importance the mission that Anita began, and that the Home still fulfils. The Trust is based in London, and being a London resident might offer some advantage, but with modern technology, this is not a limiting factor. Do please let us know if you would like to help, or if you know someone else who might.



Uniforms for the Bicentennial



The Children at Christmas



Dressed up for the Bicentennial



Family visits

WILLS

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

SPREAD THE WORD

When you have read this Newsletter, you might like to pass it on to a neighbour or friend who could be interested in hearing about the Trust and its work in Piura. Further copies can be obtained from the address below.

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.

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