



New hope for India's Dalit manual scavengers



UK project helps homeless people take control of their lives

Newsletter of the Halcrow Foundation Friends September 2019 - Issue 01

# INTOUCH



## Join our community

We're building a network of Halcrow Foundation Friends.

If you want to learn more about our work, have a project we may be interested in supporting or would like to make a donation, we'd love to hear from you.

Everything you need to know is on our website. Join our social media channels for regular updates and get involved!

[www.halcrowfoundation.org](http://www.halcrowfoundation.org)

-  Halcrow Foundation
-  @HalcrowFNDN
-  Halcrow Foundation

## Empowering lives, transforming communities



Since Halcrow was sold in 2011, the Halcrow Foundation has continued to preserve the legacy of this great engineering firm, improving the quality of people's lives around the world. *Find out how inside these pages >>*

## What's in this edition



Lights for learning in Zambia



New hope for India's Dalit manual scavengers



Sustainable deep-bed farming in Africa

# Welcome!

## From the Halcrow Foundation trustees

The Halcrow Foundation provides financial resources to practical, grassroots projects that make a tangible and lasting improvement to the lives of people suffering acute hardship. More than £2 million has been spent on projects since our charity was established following the Asian tsunami on Boxing Day 2004.

Embracing our engineering heritage, we value a disciplined and project orientated mindset and we apply this rigour and way of thinking to all of our activities.

Our board of trustees is made up of former Halcrow employees. Most have been involved with the Foundation from the very start in early 2005. We are privileged to be able to volunteer our time and skills to ensure the work of the Halcrow Foundation goes on.

We have reviewed hundreds of grant applications and carefully select

projects that fulfil our objectives and are both measurable and sustainable. Our work focuses on:

- Improving access to education, healthcare and safe water
- Increasing household food, health and income security by supporting livelihood development

**“ Over £2 million spent on projects since 2005**

**£750,000 spent on sustainable livelihood, education and health projects in the UK, Asia and Africa over the last three years**

The power of partnership drives everything we do, and we've been fortunate to work with some highly effective, trusted and inspiring partners. In recent years, we have focused our support in Africa, Asia and the UK. Current projects include our

## Our team

All our trustees are former employees of Halcrow and we are honoured to volunteer our skills and time to the Halcrow Foundation.

(From left to right)

- Clare Dorey, Communications Manager
- Jim Billingham, Secretary and Trustee
- David Kerr, Chair and Trustee
- Malcolm Wallace, Trustee
- Anna Mann, Trustee
- Andrew Yeoward, Trustee

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work in Zambia to bring education to thousands of disadvantaged children; in Pakistan to empower women from rural communities to start their own businesses; in India where we are supporting manual scavengers from the Dalit community to transform their lives; and in the UK where we are helping to fight homelessness.

By building more partnerships with like-minded people and organisations that share our values, we hope to bring lasting benefits to at least 4,000 people each year. However, we would not have been able to do this without the support of the Halcrow Trust and the Halcrow staff whose enthusiasm and energy to help others helped to establish the Halcrow Foundation during its formative years.

In these pages, you can read more about some of the ways we're preserving the legacy of Halcrow by bringing transformative improvement to communities around the world.



Homeless people take control of their lives



Yoga and meditation help prisoners turn their lives around



The Halcrow Foundation – our journey

## Africa

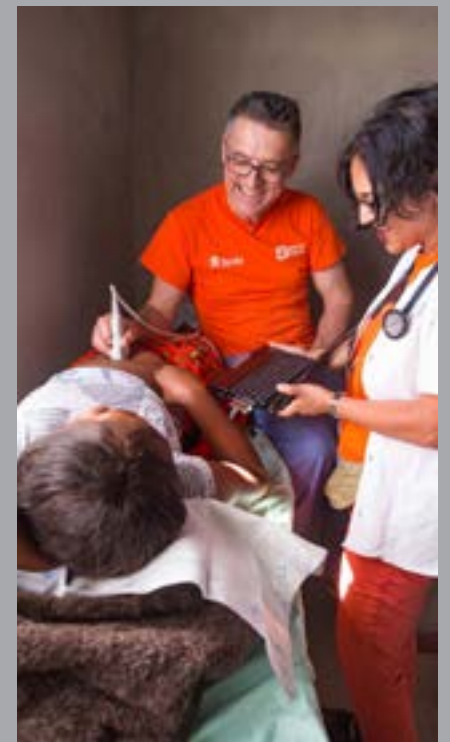
### Education and training

### Lights for learning

In rural Zambia, we're funding a project run by the Lights for Learning charity, which teaches unemployed young people to manufacture and install solar-powered lighting in schools.

This means children can attend school after daylight hours, which are usually spent helping their families with farming and other jobs. Pupils spend longer in safely-lit classrooms and teachers have more time to mark, plan and help pupils with their homework. The project also improves job prospects for the young people trained to install the lights.

Training workshop – building solar powered lights



Teacher training workshop at the Baraka Learning Centre. The medical clinic caters for more than 700 people

### Better futures for Zambia's children

Schools in rural Zambia are drastically underfunded and lack infrastructure, facilities and resources. We've teamed up with Baraka Community Partnerships to build a learning centre in Central Province.

Now complete, the centre is a community-based learning hub that includes a library and is open to local schools, teachers and students. Partners from the local community run skills workshops to provide teacher and IT training, and health education and care. The learning centre is providing resources for up to 2,000 pupils and 100 staff.

**South Asia**

**Women's  
empowerment**



# Transforming lives in rural India and Pakistan

## Ambitious goals for international partnership

We're proud to be part of the multi-million pound Women's Economic Empowerment Programme, which is run by The British Asian Trust and funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development.

This far-reaching project supports women from poor urban areas in India and Pakistan to gain economic empowerment through increased access to finance and training.

We're helping to fund the programme's development and design, The project is now equipping more than 12,000 marginalised women with the skills, materials and opportunities to find work or grow their own businesses.

As well as empowering women and girls to build a better future for themselves, it also means improved access to education and healthcare for their families today.



*The women are trained in new skills, such as textiles and garment making*



We're supporting a project, run by Karuna, which helps manual scavenger women in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Manual scavengers are women who are responsible for disposing of human excrement from the toilets in their community. It's a job traditionally passed down through families and brings huge health risks, as well as the social stigma of 'untouchability' and discrimination against the women's children.

Thanks to Halcrow Foundation funds, Karuna works with local organisations to train these women in new skills such as garment and incense making.

The project also supports the establishment of a company, Dignity and Design, to provide designs, guidance and a market outlet for their products, thus giving these women the power to shape their own futures and provide for themselves and their families.

# New hope for India's manual scavengers

*Dalit woman from the cast of the untouchables working as a manual scavenger, cleaning human excrement*

# Increasing crop yields in Malawi

## Sustainable farming practices prove better for farmers and for the environment

Through sustainable farming practices, our project in Manyamula, Malawi, is helping farmers increase their crop yields.

teaches farmers to use the deep-bed method of farming, which improves soil fertility and crop productivity, while reducing soil erosion.

Malawi relies heavily on rain-fed agriculture as the main source of food for humans and livestock. However, as with other countries across sub-Saharan Africa, it's facing increasingly unpredictable weather caused by climate change, resulting in more floods and droughts.

As well as training, the project provides farmers with the seeds and tools for the job. Livestock, which produces manure to fertilise the soil, is distributed through a 'pass-on-pig' scheme, where farmers receive an animal and pass its offspring on to other farmers in a continual chain.

Malawi's traditional ridge-and-furrow method of farming is widely regarded as being both labour intensive and environmentally destructive. Run by our partner, Tiyeni, our project

Farmers who already use this method on Tiyeni's sister projects have doubled their crop yields in the first year and strengthened their local communities.

## Safe water for Ethiopian communities

Two projects run by Environmentalists Development Association-Ethiopia (EDA-E) have improved water supplies for the villages of Entoto and Tullu Nacha in Ethiopia.

Both projects involved developing a local spring, building water storage chambers, laying pipes and building water points.

Local people helped with the construction, and villagers were trained to maintain and manage the water supply to ensure the projects are sustainable.

Having access to clean water benefits a community in so many ways. As well as improved health, fewer people miss work or school days due to sickness caused by drinking contaminated water. This increases income and improves food security. Easy access to clean water also promotes better hygiene practices.

Women and girls, who traditionally fetch water for their families, no longer have to walk as far to reach clean water and therefore can spend more time working or studying. This increases household income and improves their future job prospects.



*Mr and Mrs Katadzuka with their maize crop in Zombie area, Malawi*



*Farmers from Manyamula have embraced the more sustainable deep-bed farming method*



*Ethiopian women carrying bundles of firewood in the Entoto Mountains, Addis Ababa*

UK

Health and wellbeing

# Tackling homelessness

Project helps homeless people take more control of their lives



Groundswell volunteers use their own experience of homelessness to help others

In the UK, we're supporting projects that help vulnerable people experiencing sickness, hardship or distress. This includes working with the homeless charity Groundswell, which specialises in peer-led work.

Volunteers are trained to use their own experience of homelessness to help others still living on the street, for example, helping them access healthcare for mental and physical health problems.

We're helping to fund Groundswell's Progression Programme, which provides the peer volunteers with training and coaching to develop self-esteem and learn new skills.

*Shelter estimates there are more than 300,000 homeless people in the UK*

Ultimately, the programme supports the volunteers to find and remain in employment, so they can live independently.



Yoga class for young offenders

## Yoga and meditation help prisoners turn their lives around

Working with charity Prison Phoenix Trust, we're supporting a project that improves young offenders' mental and physical health through the practice of yoga and meditation.

Every month around 300 prisoners in the UK ask the Prison Phoenix Trust to start a yoga and meditation practice.

We're helping fund a programme which supports young offenders aged between 15 and 21 years old to start a regular practice in their cells, supported

by a book, CD and correspondence with trained letter writers.

Regular yoga practice can help people release physical and mental tension and become more resilient, balanced and confident.

Meditation can bring awareness to the present moment and increase emotional resilience. This helps improve prisoners' mental wellbeing, and prepares them for a better life after their release.

# The Halcrow Foundation our journey



Trustee Malcolm Wallace with his dog, Rio, during a recent holiday to the Lake District

Here, Malcolm Wallace looks back at the history of the Halcrow Foundation. Malcolm has been an integral part of our charity since its inception in 2005. A chartered civil engineer, Malcolm worked for Halcrow for more than 40 years, specialising in water resources and rural development studies and projects in Asia, Africa and the Middle

East. He has worked in many countries and cultures, leading multidisciplinary and multinational teams. Since retiring from Halcrow in 2009, he has been a freelance consultant specialising in strategic planning and institutional development for international river basins, notably for the Mekong and Nile rivers.

The Halcrow Foundation is an independent charity created by Halcrow, once one of the UK's largest engineering consultancies. Since Halcrow was sold in 2011, the Halcrow Foundation continues to embody the spirit of the company and its staff by working with partners to bring sustainable improvement to the lives of people around the world.

Halcrow was founded in 1868 by civil engineer Thomas Meik, and the company was originally named after him. It worked mainly on port, maritime and railway projects in the north of England and in Wales and Scotland, before winning its first overseas commissions in the 1890s. During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sir William Halcrow established the business in other areas. This included tunnelling and hydroelectric schemes, such as a 24 kilometre-long tunnel through the Ben Nevis massif, and air raid shelters beneath London underground stations.

At its peak, Halcrow was working in over 70 countries from a network of more than 90 offices, designing and advising on projects such as the Channel Tunnel rail link, Toronto's Pearson airport and the Chongzun Expressway in China. The

company's success was fuelled by the commitment and passion of its staff to bring sustainable improvement to communities across the globe.

“ *The Halcrow Foundation seeks to build partnerships with like-minded people and organisations that share the same values and enthusiasm for helping others.* ”

This commitment was highlighted by the Asian tsunami in 2004. Halcrow staff were deeply affected by the devastation and huge loss of life, and raised funds to help the victims. A small team was formed, made up of people with detailed knowledge of the affected areas. We ensured the large sums raised supported communities in Indonesia and Sri Lanka where it was needed most and helped people to rebuild their lives.

The success of these early projects inspired Halcrow employees to establish the Halcrow Foundation in 2005. It was set up as an independent charity so that it could continue their charitable efforts, and was largely funded by Halcrow profits. Thanks

to Halcrow's global presence, the Foundation went on to support over 150 projects in 27 countries, directly benefitting around 50,000 people.

However, in 2011, Halcrow was acquired by the US firm CH2M Hill, distancing the Halcrow Foundation from the staff who had so strongly supported it, and also from its main source of funding. The Halcrow Trust, which was run on behalf of employees and had controlled the company since 1990, was the main beneficiary of the sale and nearly all the proceeds were distributed to Halcrow employees.

After this, the Trust asked the Halcrow Foundation to propose how it could use the remaining funds in a way that reflected the spirit and purpose of Halcrow.

Following lengthy presentations and submissions, the Trust agreed to support the Foundation with funds that will allow the Foundation to continue its work long into the future.

And so, 150 years on from the birth of a company whose name it still takes, the Halcrow Foundation is proudly preserving the legacy of one of the UK's great engineering companies.