

Makhad

People Spirit Environment

Wells Project

We have now restored 154 Garden wells and 138 communities drinking wells totaling 292 in all. There are 23 wells underway but there are now 336 wells on our waiting list. We are aiming at restoring 50 wells for the next 4 years, which will help to reduce the list, but we need more sponsors to do this.

1st Anniversary for the Library

It is just one year since we opened the library with Farhana at the helm. Now the library is seeing increasing use by many children, usually 15 to 20 children a day, mothers drop by sometimes too or ask their children to borrow books for them. Some men also come to borrow books. Farhana organised a trip for around 20 to visit the monastery in St Katherines and the visitor centre. Everyone enjoyed the trip and they are looking forward to another, this time to the seaside at Nuweiba. We would now like to open another library in Tarfa, which is the second largest community so funding and books are needed for this. Can you help?



Spring 2016 Newsletter - News from Sinai

Report from Sinai for the second journey of the year from 21 April to 9 May. The first half of the journey involved supervising the wells project and the second half, in conjunction with Michael, Sherif, and Nora, was to facilitate other existing projects and to initiate some new ones. Helen, MT Project Manager, arrived at St Katherine's on Friday 22 April after flying via Cairo to Sharm El Sheikh. The West has still not resumed direct flights to Sharm although there are flights from and to Russian cities. The latest rumor is that direct flights will resume around October.





New! Herb Growing Training for Orphans

Michael has had a long standing dream of setting up a project to teach orphan teenagers to grow herbs as a means of sustaining themselves but until now we had not found the right person to take this on. Now Atir has stepped forward and we have just initiated the project. Coincidentally, Atir's dream has been to teach young people to grow herbs - so now we have the perfect project! Faraj has kindly given us a plot of land adjacent to Fox Camp, just next door to Cosmo's house, and last week Atir was organising men to come and level the land, move boulders, build fences and bring in clay. By the end of next week it should be ready to start planting up. Water will come from Faraj's well. Atir knows of possible students and they will start the course around the end of June. They will learn about growing herbs, how to harvest them and sell them. Most herbs will be culinary ones as there is a high demand from the Bedouin for those. We are looking for sponsors who want to support this project, so if you are interested please get in touch for more information.

In February, all the almond trees were in blossom and now, just 6 weeks later, everything had become bright green and the almond trees were heavy with a very good crop of nuts. Almonds are an excellent cash crop, as they do not go off for several years, travel well, and fetch a good price, as do olives, which are also cropping heavily this spring. Last year the frost caught most of almond blossoms and the harvest was very poor, so this year the Bedouin are looking forward to some much-needed income from the trees.

Mahmoud and Helen got straight to work, helped by Faraj with his jeep, going to visit wells in Wadi Tarfa and Wadi Gharba to see two well owners, both of whom had completed their contracts and now had good water. They were garden wells but many people in their communities take water from the wells too. Hussein in Wadi Tarfa owns a very large garden in two parts with his 6 brothers and 4 sisters, altogether a family of about 50 people. They had one well but it was not enough for all the vegetables they required to grow to support them all, so we deepened their second well. Now they have planted over 200 more trees and they can grow lots of vegetables so everyone can eat and they can still sell the surplus to provide for their families.



One of the outstanding projects of the trip was the drinking well belonging to Salhe in a community beyond Tarfa. Salhe is the elderwoman here and very much a woman of the desert. She was left the well by her grandfather who dug it, for the whole community. Salhe still lives a very traditional lifestyle keeping goats and taking them to grazing all over the desert and

living in her tent. Her house has no roof, low walls and only a shady part, so she is not living separate from the desert. Her well is 3 km away from the community and used to supply good water for the 6 families who live here until it was filled in by flood water. The community could not rely on government-supplied water as often the trucks only came once a month and it was hard to find water. Now her son Juma, has restored the well and it has good water again, with a long hosepipe takes it to a tank in the village. Salhe was overjoyed to have her well restored because she says now she does not have to take her goats over 3 km to get water every day. This restoration has made a huge and positive impact on the lives of these people.



Beekeeping Training



The year-long training continues with the beekeepers looking after their own bees now. In February Mousa collected the bees from a supplier in Cairo and kept them in his garden for a month to ensure they were all healthy. He bought 60 boxes with a swarm in each, 10 swarms for each beekeeper. Now the bees are all established in the trainees' gardens and doing well. They have gardens in Wadi Raha, Nabaq El Hawa where 2 of them share a garden, Esbaia, Wadi Tlah and Wadi Buliea. All the beekeepers were very happy with their bees and looking forward to producing lots of honey. We expect to run a second beekeeping-training course in September or January 2017.



A Huge Thank You to Our Supporters

Over the years we have built up a large and strong support network for the Trust from people who have been on journeys, numerous charities who donate funds and people who have offered their skills. Every one of these contributions is valuable to us as the project needs a lot of financial input and time input, and there is always more support needed. If you would like to help keep this essential work going, please get in touch with us. All donations of money or time or expertise, however small are gratefully received. The Bedouin are always saying how much they appreciate the work of the Trust - it is making a massive difference to them in hundreds of ways.

The Next Project Journey

Helen's next trip to Sinai will be at the end of July when she will be looking after the wells project as usual, but also visiting the Beekeepers, the new Herb Growing course, and of course, the library. Do get in touch and let us have your feedback about the projects and work

The next Open Working Journey

If you would like to visit Sinai and see our projects at a first hand, there is an opportunity coming up later this year. One of the MT trustees, Rachel Devas, is organising a journey to build a dam at the beginning of October. They will leave UK on Saturday 1 October and will return on Sunday 9 October, flying via Hugarda. They plan to build the next dam at the top of Wadi Gibal which will help the gardens down the length of Wadi Gibal and Farsh Rumana. If you are interested in joining the journey or just want to know more, please contact Rachel on racheldevas@me.com or on 0117 942 1120. Overleaf are some photos from the trip

Photos from the trip







