



# NEWSLETTER

www.hiz.org.uk

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## NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe has been less in the news recently. The formation of the coalition government and the stabilisation of the economy have made for less lurid headlines. But that's not to say the pressures on the elderly and frail in Zimbabwe's care homes have lessened. Quite the contrary.



Zimbabwe today

While economic activity has picked up and hyper-inflation disappeared, the stresses on the more vulnerable members of society – the very people whom HIZ does so much excellent work to support – remain every bit as acute as they were in the dark

days of the recent past. Life for these individuals, and for those that care for them, is the same desperate struggle it was before.

I have seen at first hand the excellent work which HIZ and their committed staff do here on the ground. Their work is vital - a credit to the organisation and those who support them. They go to extraordinary lengths to ensure that every cent donated goes to those who need it.

Please continue to give it your support. The lives of hundreds of elderly people here in Zimbabwe quite literally depend on your generosity.



Mark Canning  
British Ambassador,  
Zimbabwe

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*a huge success*



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*Nigel Kay*

## Some of the 1800 frail elderly people dependent on Homes in Zimbabwe for their survival

Mary - 80



Mary taught art to children and never married. More recently she ran a school of weaving for ten years and tried to sell her work at craft fairs. Hyper-inflation has wiped out her savings. She adopted her houseboy and his 3 daughters and they have lived with her for over 30 years. When she dies they will inherit the house. Mary's small pension is worthless and she is now very frail. She says the food parcels funded by Homes in Zimbabwe are a life-saver.

Peter - 85



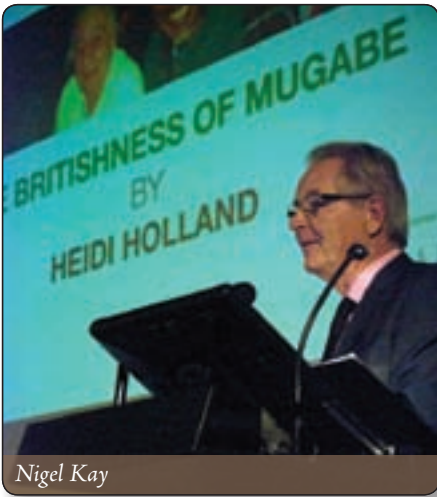
Peter is almost blind. For 60 years he worked in Zimbabwe in mining, engineering and paint manufacture. He should be living in comfort but his pension and savings are worthless. The manager of the care home found him weeping because he can't even afford to buy a razor. She bought one for him.

Freda - 89



Freda was born on the Greek island of Rhodes and went on to spend her childhood in Italy. During World War 2 she and her family were rounded up with other Jews and sent to Auschwitz. She still has the concentration camp number tattooed on her arm. Her post war dream of a new life in Africa has ended in extreme poverty.

## HIZ FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS DESPITE THE RECESSION



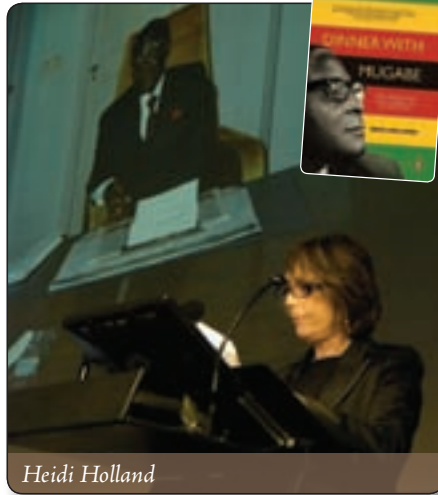
Nigel Kay

Over 600 people filled the Royal Geographical Society London to hear Heidi Holland, author of "Dinner With Mugabe" talk about why she believes that the international media has never got to grips with the full complexity of the Zimbabwe story.

She had met Mugabe, the Freedom Fighter, in the 1970's and Mugabe the President and unstoppable tyrant thirty years later. What were the signs in his character that things would not go well in Zimbabwe when he took power? To understand that, she suggested, you needed to understand the power that Britain held over all Rhodesians, black and white, growing up in a colonial power. "As kids we were very aware of our colonial status. Being British and aristocratic was

akin to godliness and we were brought up to believe that excellence resided in Britain." Like all educated Africans of the time, Robert Mugabe also grew up emulating the British with their stiff upper lip, love of cricket, polished vowels and austere suits.

During 11 years in jail Mugabe never faced up to the emotional pain of his incarceration. Instead he buried his head in books and came away with six university degrees.



Heidi Holland

"It is Mugabe's denial of his true feelings over the years that has caused the unstoppable rage we see in him today. Anger is his official tongue because he believes he has sacrificed and suffered without recognition from the people he most respected, the British." As Mugabe's power base at

home dwindled, blaming the former colonial power became the perfect propaganda excuse, just as it has been for so many failed African leaders. But the Blair government's claims that Mugabe was worse than Saddam Hussein when everyone including Mugabe knew this to be untrue, were misplaced and so the rest of Africa backed Mugabe.

By 2000 and his disastrous land grab Mugabe had become Britain's one dimensional mega monster constantly vilified in the media but ignored by New Labour whose approach to diplomacy, she feels, has been a disaster.

So, certain that Mugabe will never step down, she has been to see David Milliband to try to persuade him to speak to the renegade leader. "We need to deal with Mugabe because the thing he cares about most is power and he is never going to step down."



Book signing

The talk was followed by a fundraising dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club where Andrew Pocock, former British Ambassador to Zimbabwe was the guest speaker. He focused on two of Mugabe's closest advisors, Gideon Gono, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and Jonathan Moyo, former Minister of Information, who have been key to the collapse of the Zimbabwe economy. Both men are

banned from travelling to America and the EU. Holding up a one hundred trillion dollar note, Pocock explained "This note, on the day that it was printed would have bought a

the Zimbabwean economy makes Weimar seem like a fiscal blip. Pocock suggested that Gono's "stellar" efforts made one wonder which planet he actually inhabits. He pointed out that Moyo is wanted in Kenya and South Africa for embezzlement. The tragedy is that it is very clear that none of them is going anywhere soon. In complete accord with Heidi Holland, Pocock believes there is no simple and imminent solution because Mugabe is not going to relinquish power.



Andrew Pocock with the Z\$100 trillion bank note



RGS Lecture

box of matches.....and that was before lunch!" With considerable irony he described Gideon Gono, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe as the "father of quantitative easing", a man who holds the record for creating the highest inflation rate in history and whose mishandling of



Guests

A big  
Thank  
you



Our auctioneer this year was television journalist and former presenter on BBC Television's "That's Life" programme, Gavin Campbell.

A huge thank you to all the very kind people who donated paintings, jewellery, holidays and hotel stays and experiences, and then an equally huge thank you to all the people who bid for them!

The evening raised a massive £50,000 and every penny will be spent in Zimbabwe. Without your support, we simply could not do the life-saving work we do.

Special thanks to the sponsors of the evening; ARUP, the Anglo American Foundation and an anonymous donor

ARUP



## THREE MEN IN A BOAT....ON A BIKE, ON A GOLF COURSE AND A MARATHON!

eXtreme 5  
challenge

Go to their online gallery  
and see them in action!  
[www.extreme5challenge.co.uk](http://www.extreme5challenge.co.uk)



The intrepid 3 and their partners

On Saturday July 4th 2009 three intrepid young Zimbabweans set out on the first of a series of physically demanding challenges covering the length and breadth of the UK which was to take them 35 days. They did it to raise vital funds for Homes In Zimbabwe.



On the Severn Bridge

The lads ran a full marathon in Richmond Park on a warm summer's morning. One week later they got on their bikes to cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats. Two weeks after that they got off their bikes to spend the first three days of August kayaking the length of the Caledonian Canal. In case any of them were still standing they then grabbed their golf clubs and

played four consecutive rounds of golf in one day at Sherfield Oaks Golf Club in Hampshire. So far Simon, Graeme and Mike have raised over £22,000 and are still working tirelessly to reach their target of £100,000.

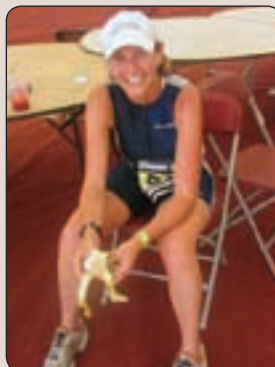
If you'd like to support them you can still do so by logging on to [www.extreme5challenge.co.uk](http://www.extreme5challenge.co.uk)

The Extreme 5 Challenge was inspired by Graeme Schlachter who successfully swam across the English Channel in 2008 to raise funds for our charity. Simon Grint and Mike Bass were determined to match his outstanding efforts this year and all three are already planning a similar challenge on September 24th 2010.

The difference this time is that they are recruiting 50 teams of four to join them in their adventure and help them match their fundraising success in 2009. To find out how you could get involved next year please log on to their website.



Taking a bow at the RGS



### Michelle Pattison

Homes In Zimbabwe is also grateful to Michelle Pattison who ran the London Marathon in April 2009 and raised over £1000. It was Michelle's first London Marathon and she was delighted to finish in under four hours.

## IN ZIMBABWE TODAY

There is food in local shops but unless you have foreign currency you can't buy it. Prices are at least double those in South Africa and way beyond the reach of most people especially the elderly

There is no clean running water and hundreds have died from cholera

There is unemployment of over 85%

The government healthcare system has collapsed and drugs are prohibitively expensive

Manufacturing industry has collapsed

Power cuts are frequent

### Homes In Zimbabwe

- is the major source of food to over 1800 frail elderly people
- is the only supplier of fuel to power standby generators – vital to homes suffering frequent power cuts
- spends over £70,000 a year on fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs
- spends no money on advertising
- has kept expenses below 4% of donations
- has lost no donor's money through theft or corruption



*Selling the Zimbabwean*



*Unloading HIZ donated food in Harare*

## HOW HOMES IN ZIMBABWE WORKS



Homes In Zimbabwe purchases non perishable tinned and dried food in South Africa and transports it to Zimbabwe. Drivers run the risk of up to ten days delay at the borders but all of them have the relevant government permits and no import duty is payable. The food arrives either in Harare or Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's two main cities where it is securely stored. It is then distributed by teams of unpaid volunteers.

Homes In Zimbabwe also sources fresh meat, fruit, vegetables and eggs in Zimbabwe which are distributed to residential care homes every week and to elderly people in their own homes through the local charity SOAP (Save Our Aged People). Fresh eggs are vital – they are the most easily digestible high protein food for the frail elderly.



Lesley and Craig Hunt who distribute HIZ food to the homes in the Bulawayo area standing in a 40 foot container of HIZ donated food



Nigel Kay, Chair of HIZ, inspecting the 2 x 40 foot containers that store HIZ donated food for distribution by SOAP (Save Our Aged People)



Louise Campbell, pictured above in the SOAP Bulawayo food store, and Dave Gill, originally from Doncaster, provide food to 180 pensioners living in the own homes.



New HIZ food store in Harare donated by the British Embassy. Located at Athol Evans, it holds all HIZ food prior to distribution to the Harare homes and SOAP.

## VERITY ANN SOUP KITCHEN - A HUGE SUCCESS STORY



The volunteer ladies provide hearty soup lunches for 124 elderly people and they also do breakfasts in Bulawayo on certain days. HIZ supply a weekly vegetable consignment and dried items (pastas etc) as requested.

Total Money Raised in 2009  
£480,000 (to June 2009)

HIZ Website Details  
[www.hiz.org.uk](http://www.hiz.org.uk)

E-Mail  
[info@hiz.org.uk](mailto:info@hiz.org.uk)

## MEETING WITH JOHN MURPHY British Embassy Consul

### Repatriation Scheme to end in March 2010

John Murphy, British Embassy Consul has confirmed to Homes In Zimbabwe that the Repatriation Scheme is likely to assist 300 to 400 British Citizens living in Zimbabwe. 70 of them have left already.

But most elderly people will not be so lucky as to be moved to the UK, re-homed and cared for at no cost to themselves. At least 1800 elderly pensioners will still depend on HIZ for their survival.

## WHAT TWO CARE HOME MANAGERS SAY ABOUT HIZ

### *Letter from Gordon Howard MBE, Administrator of The Athol Evans Hospital*

For some years now, Homes In Zimbabwe have helped us survive the ever increasing problems of keeping the Care Homes operating. Without their professional caring approach and ability to assess situations quickly, most Homes would have closed.

The Athol Evans Complex, comprising a hospital of 70 beds, residential accommodation and retirement cottages, providing a home for 200 residents, certainly would have been struggling to continue its work without Homes In Zimbabwe. We personally owe Mr Nigel Kay and his team a great debt of gratitude for the way they respond to our needs. It has been a pleasure to work with them and together try to meet the needs of those about whom we are all concerned.



**Gordon Howard MBE**

### *Letter from Josh Pitluk, Chairman The BS Leon Trust for Elderly Men and Women, Harare*

It was a great pleasure to have another visit to the BS Leon Home by Nigel and Maggie Kay which gave us the opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which the generosity of Homes In Zimbabwe has improved conditions in the Home.

We introduced the Kays to Rose MacDonald, the new Manager and kitchen supervisor, whose salary Homes In Zimbabwe has generously agreed to pay. She has made an enormous difference to the running of the home and the quality and quantity of meals have improved tremendously, using no extra food supplies. We can say with certainty that all our residents have expressed complete satisfaction with their meals.



*Rose MacDonald*

Thanks to the unfailing regularity of the Homes In Zimbabwe food supplies we have been able to keep our residents sufficiently well-fed especially in the very difficult times experienced in recent years when horrendous inflation made the purchasing of any food items a nightmare. Thanks to you we had supplies of sugar, oil, milk powder and numerous other essentials when they were virtually unobtainable. We say, without exaggeration, that without your help this home would have been unable to feed our residents and we would have had to close down.

It is impossible to adequately express our appreciation and thanks to Homes In Zimbabwe for your dedicated and tireless helpers.

With our most sincere thanks and good wishes,  
Yours sincerely,



**J Pitluk**



*Our Harare Managers in the HIZ foodstore*



*Staff at BS Leon*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Full details on our website: [www.hiz.org.uk](http://www.hiz.org.uk)



**Friday April 23rd, 2010**

**Charity Golf Competition and Dinner at Mill Ride Golf Club Ascot.**

Open to all levels of golfers.

Golf and dinner £85

Dinner only £30

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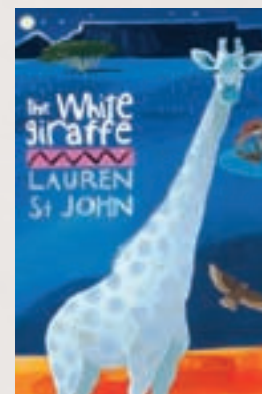
**Thursday October 21st 2010**

**Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Tickets £15**



Lauren St John

Lauren St John, the bestselling author of the White Giraffe series of children's adventure novels and her acclaimed autobiography, *Rainbow's End: A Memoir of Childhood, War & Africa*, will be the guest speaker at our 2010 lecture at the Royal Geographical Society. Frustrated with the stereotyped image of Africa as a basketcase of war, poverty and corruption, Lauren will talk about the magnetic appeal the continent has had over writers as diverse as Joseph Conrad, Nadine Gordimer and Alexander McCall Smith, and why she likes to celebrate the people, animals and beauty of Africa in her work. She says: "The landscape is so magical and there are so many resourceful, beautiful and interesting people in Africa whose stories just don't get heard. That's why I admire the novels of Alexander McCall Smith so much; they show such a positive image of Africa."



The lecture will be followed by a fundraising dinner and auction of promises at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in Knightsbridge, London. Tickets £75.00

## Letter from Nigel Kay, Chair of HIZ



The BBC was recently allowed to report again from Zimbabwe. Its reports suggest that there are small signs of recovery after ten years of catastrophic economic decline. I was therefore particularly looking forward to my visit to the country in November to see for myself what changes had occurred since my last visit some 6 months earlier

and how our humanitarian programme is likely to be affected during 2010.

Certainly the supermarket shelves are full again and there are many more vehicles on the roads now that fuel is no longer in short supply. With the final demise of the Zimbabwe dollar in January 2009, the world record inflation rate of over a trillion %, has actually been replaced with price deflation in US\$'s, now the official trading currency of the country. This development has certainly made managing a business and indeed a charity easier. The resulting end of draconian exchange control regulations is also particularly welcome.

It was also a pleasure to visit a number of homes where our support has quite clearly transformed the lives of their residents. In two homes we have provided funds to enable them to employ competent managers and the resulting improvements have been quite staggering – better eating, cleaner wards and happier residents and staff.

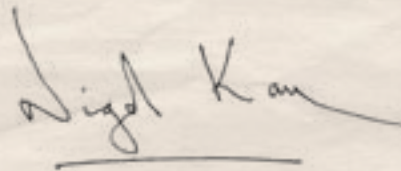
Unfortunately however, the Unity Government is not succeeding and Robert Mugabe and his ZANU PF colleagues continue to rule the country with no regard for human rights or encouragement for inward investment now so vital for economic recovery. A reign of terror continues in the rural areas and greed and corruption within the ruling party knows no bounds. The country is effectively bankrupt and only the fortunate few who have US\$'s can enjoy any semblance of the life enjoyed in Europe.

Prices in real terms increased three fold after the collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar. This has simply aggravated the already serious situation faced by the elderly and the residential homes they live in. Although the number we are supporting has dropped on account of deaths and the British Government repatriation scheme, we and the other charities who for over 5 years have ensured the survival of the homes, now face greater difficulty than ever in continuing to raise the funds we need on account of the global economic crisis. Typically donation income for most charities has reduced by a third since 2008.

Our ongoing food and fuel programme now supports over 1800 elderly people either living in residential care homes or at home where they are supported by SOAP (Save Our Aged People) – a voluntary “meals on wheels” service that operates in the Harare and Bulawayo areas. Homes In Zimbabwe is now the major source of funds for SOAP.

We take pride our overheads have remained at less than 4% of our donation revenue and that our aid programme in Zimbabwe is tightly controlled by competent, and with one exception, unpaid volunteers. We abhor and avoid the corruption that is so prevalent throughout Africa. The bulk of our donated food is imported from South Africa, saving at least 30% on the comparable cost of locally purchased food.

After 5 years of seeing a slow improvement in the lives of our pensioners through the generosity of our donors, we would be very concerned to see any curtailment in the vital work we undertake on account of financial constraints. I do therefore ask for your generous support to our work in 2010.



### Homes In Zimbabwe - Mission statement

Homes In Zimbabwe registered as a UK charity in 2004. This year, we aim to feed over 1800 frail, elderly in Harare, Bulawayo and other towns around Zimbabwe. Without Homes In Zimbabwe's support many would starve. The Zimbabwean economy has collapsed. The former national currency has been replaced by the US\$ and the South African Rand. As a result local pensions and savings have no value. Now there is food in the shops but it is priced in US\$, prohibitively expensive and out of reach for most old people. Families have been split apart and many forced to flee the country. Hundreds of elderly have been left behind; alone, destitute and without enough to eat.

Homes In Zimbabwe provides food to 26 residential homes, a soup kitchen and supports SOAP (Save Our Aged People) in Harare and Bulawayo; a network of volunteers who deliver food parcels to elderly people struggling to survive in their own homes.

“Without Homes In Zimbabwe we might as well shut up and go home.” (Edith Duly Hospital, Bulawayo)

In addition Homes In Zimbabwe also supplies fuel for stand-by generators at a number of residential homes, a vital resource with the frequent power cuts. Boreholes driven by generators are often the only source of water available.

We aim to feed 1800 elderly people – with your help we will. Come to an event, get involved in fundraising, make a donation, tell your friends and family. Whatever you do your support is always appreciated and it will make a real difference to someone struggling to survive.

Homes In Zimbabwe

Charity Registration No. 1104512